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Winnowings Series No. 2.

WINNOWINGS

FOR

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

BY

AGNES MAWSON

AUTHOR OF "WINNOWINGS FOR LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY"

PART I.

SELECTIONS FOR GRAMMAR AND HIGH SCHOOLS

PART II.

FOR LITTLE FOLK. ANECDOTES

NEW YORK

D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

1909

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TO MY GENIAL LITTLE COMRADE,

Alfred Benjamin,

A LAD OF SEVEN, WHO SAYS,

"WASHINGTON LIVED FOR HIS COUNTRY AND NOT FOR HIMSELF,"

I LOVINGLY DEDICATE

THIS BOOK.

PREFACE.

It is owing to the appreciation and encouragement of my friends, the teachers and others who have seen "Winnowings for Lincoln's Birthday," that I have ventured to send forth this, the second number of the Winnowings Series.

In the biographical sketch there will be found no detailed account of battles won or lost; only those emphasized by the application of Washington's own words, which form a background to show forth the deep humanity that underlay the calm exterior of the man.

The author calls the attention of teachers and students to the adaptability of Washington's sentiments not only to his own time, but to each generation that has followed, especially to this, the present century.

Agnes Mawson.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

THE genealogy of Washington may be traced to the century following the Norman Conquest. The forefathers of George Washington were lords of the manor of the Village of Wassengtone in the County of Durham : hence the name.

John and Andrew Washington, two brothers, were the first of the family to emigrate. They settled in Virginia, in 1657, between the Potomac and the Rappahannock Rivers, and on Bridges Creek, John's grandson, Augustine, George Washington's father, was born in 1694.

He married twice. Lawrence and Augustine were sons of his first wife. The family by his second marriage were four sons, George, Samuel, John Augustine and Charles; and two daughters, Elizabeth and Mildred.

On the sixth of March, 1730, Augustine Washington married a young and beautiful girl, Mary Ball. George, their eldest child, was born February 22, 1732, in the homestead on Bridges Creek, Westmoreland County, Virginia.

The death of his father in 1743 prevented George Washington from being sent to England as his step-

brothers had been, and he was left to the care of an anxious mother endowed with a strong will, capable of developing in her son those qualities which were of the utmost importance to him to form a great republic.

The moral foundation of Washington's character was doubtless laid by the daily reading of Sir Matthew Hale's "Contemplations," his mother's favorite volume; it may be seen at Mt. Vernon, Va., where one may also see Washington's "Ciphering Book."

Mrs. Washington, according to some authorities, gave her son a private education. His studies included a "critical knowledge of grammar, mathematics, particularly surveying, geography, history, and natural and moral philosophy." *

When Washington was about fourteen years of age, he evinced a great desire to enter the navy; this was encouraged by his brother Lawrence. The great difficulty, however, was to procure his mother's consent; finally this was obtained, but upon receipt of a letter from her brother, Joseph Ball, an English lawyer, who wrote, "Do not let him go to sea; make a tinker or a tailor of him, or anything that will keep him on shore, rather than see him sail away from you as a sailor before the mast," Mrs. Washington's courage failed her and the scheme was abandoned.

* As a lad Washington read the Spectator, a History of England and books on agriculture.

For nearly two years longer Washington continued his studies, especially in mathematics and surveying. When sixteen he lived with his brother Lawrence, who had built a house on the Potomac on the estate inherited from his father; this he called Mt. Vernon.*

At Mt. Vernon, Washington's character was greatly influenced by Lord Fairfax, whose daughter Lawrence Washington married. Lord Fairfax and Washington became good friends; they hunted together and engaged in all sorts of rough and perilous sports. Lord Fairfax, who was many years older than Washington, saw in him such qualities as purity of character, principles of justice, unselfishness, self-control, courage and strong sense, and disinterestedness. Such qualities as invite confidence and command respect, and when united form a character of such perfect proportions as that of Washington.

Lord Fairfax firmly trusted Washington, and proposed to him to survey the Fairfax possessions in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Through the influence of Lord Fairfax Washington became public surveyor, continuing this occupation three years, living a rough but manly and robust life.

* The original house was built in 1740, enlarged in 1760, again in 1785. Mt. Vernon was named in honor of Admiral Vernon, Commander-in-Chief in the West Indies. Lawrence Washington obtained a captain's commission for the West Indies, and served in Admiral Vernon's expedition.

"He wrote to a friend at this time: 'Since you received my letter of October last, I have not slept above three or four nights in a bed, but after walking a good deal all day, I have lain down before the fire upon a little hay, straw, fodder, or a bearskin, whichever was to be had, with man, wife and children, like dogs and cats, and happy is he who gets the berth nearest the fire. Nothing would make it pass off tolerably but a good reward. A doubloon is my constant gain every day that the weather will permit of my going out, and sometimes six pistoles.'" *

Washington was justly pleased with honest earnings. His surveys have always been an authority. In his intercourse with his brother Lawrence and the Fairfax family, Washington had access to a library. He never was a student, having few opportunities, but he read and read well whenever he had a chance, and there is no record of any time when he proved himself ignorant in history or literature. †

* Irving says, a pistole is $3.60; a doubloon is double that sum. Webster quotes a pistole as a quarter of a doubloon. A doublon $15.60.

† It is interesting to note the following books which Washington ordered after the Revolution: The Life of Charles XII, The Life of Louis XV, The Life and Reign of Peter the Great, Robertson's History of America, Voltaire's Letters, Verlot's Revolution of Rome and Revolution of Portugal, The Life of Gustavus Adolphus, Sully's Memoirs, Goldsmith's Natural History, Campaigns of Marshal Turenne, Chambaud's French and English Dictionary, Locke on the Human Understanding and Robertson's Charles V.

In 1751, George accompanied his brother Lawrence, who was in ill health, to the West Indies. This was the only time Washington was outside of his native country. In July, 1752, Lawrence Washington died at Mt. Vernon, leaving George guardian of his daughter, and at her death heir to his estates.

Washington Irving says: "The paternal care ever manifested by Lawrence Washington for his youthful brother and the influence his own character and conduct must have had upon him, should link their memories together in history, and endear the name of Lawrence Washington to every American."

The first event in the public career of Washington began with the struggle of the French and English in America for control of the vast wilderness beyond the Alleghany Mountains. Almost all the important points beyond the mountains were in possession of the French. The English had been busy with colonization east of the mountains, and in order not to lose control of the land west of the mountains, organized the Ohio Company to plant a colony in that region. The French determined to prevent the English from moving across the mountains, and built a new line of forts from Erie on Lake Erie to what is now Pittsburg, then Fort Duquesne. Both the French and the English knew how important was this "Gateway of the West," and both resolved to fortify it. Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia selected Washington, not yet twenty-two

years of age, to convey a message to St. Pierre, the French commander, asking him not to trespass on the English claims and to withdraw his forces. This he refused to do, and war, known as "The French and Indian War," was declared.*

Governor Dinwiddie raised troops; Washington was offered the command but he refused, as he thought it too great a charge for his youth and inexperience. Colonel Fry took command, Washington was second, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. At Fort Necessity the Virginians were compelled to surrender. This and other hostile acts of the French on the Ohio aroused the attention of the British Government, and General Braddock was appointed commander of all the forces in America. Braddock crossed the mountains to attack Fort Duquesne, Colonel Washington accompanied him. Here Washington grasped the opportunity which was full of instruction for him; it was here that he gained and stored away that knowledge which in a few years he used against those who were his military teachers. Strong friendships were formed with the English officers who treated him with great courtesy. All were deeply conscious of the strength of character and ability which underlay the quiet, pleasant manner of Washington.

The army moved on slowly, and when near the fort

* Read carefully what Henry Cabot Lodge writes of this expedition, Vol. I, p. 66; also what Washington Irving says of it, Vol. I, p. 99.

were suddenly attacked by Indians in ambuscade. Braddock was compelled to ask of Washington that counsel which had already been offered and refused. The troops were panic-stricken and fled. Braddock, who was mortally wounded, ordered a retreat. There was no fighting except that done by the Virginians. Washington flung himself into the fight and tried to rally the regular troops, regardless of personal safety, having had two horses shot from under him, and four bullets through his coat. Because of his wisdom before the attack, his courage on the day of battle and his coolness upon retreat, Washington alone saved the army and came forth from the disaster of Braddock's defeat with increased glory.*

Washington never came out of a campaign without showing plainly that he had learned some valuable lessons. But he was ill and worn. He returned to Mt. Vernon, and while there was urged to solicit command of the Virginia forces; this he declined. He wrote to his mother: "If it is in my power to avoid going to the Ohio again, I shall: but if the command is pressed upon me by the general voice of the country, and offered upon such terms as cannot be objected against, it would reflect dishonor on me to refuse it."

The same day the command of all the Virginia forces

* Braddock bequeathed to Washington his horse and his body-servant as tokens of his gratitude.

was offered to Washington and accepted. For the next three years the war was a great struggle to protect the inhabitants on the frontier, with an inadequate force. There was little success. In 1758 Washington became so ill that he was obliged to withdraw to Mt. Vernon. He recovered slowly, but when William Pitt, Prime Minister of the English Government, proved himself the true friend of the American colonists by sending fleets and armies to help them, Washington revived, and his services were accepted by General Forbes who came to accomplish that in which Braddock had failed.

An expedition in which Washington took part was sent against Fort Duquesne which fell without a blow; for the commander having blown up the magazines and set fire to the fort, retreated down the Ohio River. Washington with the advanced guard marched into the fort and planted the British flag on its smoking ruins. The name was changed to Fort Pitt in honor of the Prime Minister of England. It is now Pittsburg.*

The military career of Washington ended for a time with this campaign. He returned to Mt. Vernon to live a private life. In the spring of 1758 Washington met Martha Dandridge, the widow of Daniel Parke Custis. He was much attracted by her beauty and intelligence,

* Read in Montgomery's The Leading facts of American History, p. 144, "What the French and Indian War Settled."

her simplicity and sympathy, and by her practicability. They were married January 6, 1759. While absent on his last campaign Washington was elected a member of the House of Burgesses. Three months later he removed to Williamsburg to take his seat. It was agreed by a vote of the House to greet him by public thanks for his services to the country. As soon as this was done by Mr. Robinson, the Speaker, Washington rose to reply. He blushed, stammered, trembled and could not utter a word. "Sit down, Mr. Washington," said the speaker with a smile; "your modesty equals your valor and that surpasses the power of any language I possess."

Washington loved country life; he comprehended every branch of farming, farming as he fought, "better than any one else." He became a prosperous planter, and by his foresight and thoroughness made money, which, added to the estate inherited from his brother Lawrence, and his wife's fortune, made him one of the richest men in the country.

Washington had no children, but his stepchildren, a boy and a girl, received from him the most affectionate care and protection; he was an undemonstrative man, but he had that deep real affection that labors unselfishly, and when his stepdaughter died, in 1773, Washington mourned for her as if she has been his own child. The boy, John Custis, was his friend and companion from the beginning, and one of the

dearest objects of Washington's attention was his education.*

Washington lived a manly, many-sided life. He was a regular attendant at the Virginia Assembly, where by force of character, clear perception and speaking forcibly only when he had something to say, he carried great weight because of the masterful strength back of the words.

During the anxious years after the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765, when Washington was at Williamsburg to represent his county, "he made the most eloquent speech that ever was made, and said: 'I will raise a thousand men, subsist them at my own expense, and march them to the relief of Boston.'"

He was chosen one of the Virginia delegates to the Continental Congress. There is no record that Washington took any special part in the debates of this Congress, though Patrick Henry said: "If you speak of solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington is unquestionably the greatest man on the floor."

Washington returned to Mt. Vernon, to the occupations and enjoyments he loved, to his family and his farm. But this happy farmer's peaceful life was soon to be brought to a close. A second Congress con-

* Washington ordered these goods to be shipped from London. "10 shillings worth of toys; 6 little books for children beginning to read, and one fashionably dressed baby-doll to cost 10 shillings."

vened, May 10, 1775, and Washington was again called from home. The question at issue was "What to do with the army at Boston and the hostilities existing there." At last it was declared that "Congress must adopt the army and appoint Washington—who, at this mention of his name stepped out of the room—Commander-in-Chief." This was adopted June 15, 1775. The following is quoted to show the diffidence with which Washington accepted.

"MR. PRESIDENT:—Though I am truly sensible of the high honor done me in this appointment, yet I feel great distress from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust. However, as the Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty and exert every power I possess in the service and for the support of the glorious cause. I beg they will accept my most cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation.

"But lest some unlucky event should happen unfavorable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room, that I this day declare with the utmost sincerity I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with. As to pay, sir, I beg leave to assure Congress that as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment at the expense of my

domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it.

I will keep an exact account of my expenses. These I doubt not they will discharge, and that is all I desire."

Early in July of 1775, under the historical elm tree at Cambridge, Massachusetts, Washington took command of the army.

I must necessarily pass over much of interest in the career of Washington during "The War of Independence," and will only dwell upon such of his services in the various campaigns as will tend more forcibly to show forth his character. In the preliminary campaign the most signal services were rendered at the Siege of Boston where, by his clever management in a short time, an undisciplined band of men became soldiers; and by a "bloodless victory" the British evacuated Boston, never to return. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed in Congress and "a gold medal commemorating the evacuation of Boston, with an effigy of Washington as its deliverer, was ordered."

The Retreat from Canada, The Adoption of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776, and the Battle of Fort Moultrie may be selected as principal events closing this campaign.

Then follows the First Great Defensive Campaign, with the Battle and the Retreat from Long Island. The preparations for this retreat were made by Washington

with great alertness and the utmost secrecy; scarcely any spoil was left for the enemy. Washington, though constantly urged, refused to enter his boat until the last troops were embarked.

This retreat was one of the most extraordinary achievements of the war and added much to the reputation of Washington who for many hours scarcely closed his eyes and was most of the time on horseback.

The demoralization in the ranks was a serious matter. Though New York was practically lost with the battle, Washington clung to it with faith and hopefulness that all would be well in the future.

He wrote to Congress: "Till of late I had no doubt in my own mind of defending this place if the men would do their duty."

It was decided to abandon the city as soon as stores and ammunition could be removed. Washington's watchfulness increased, and he made efforts to obtain secret word of Howe's designs. He thought there might be some one near the enemy's camp who could give information. It was at this time that Nathan Hale undertook to enter the British lines.

Howe did not wish to destroy the city by bombardment, and Washington held it the nineteen days before the British commander entered it.

Washington thought the enemy might seize upon Harlem Heights, the strong central part of the island. He sent word to the forces encamped there to secure

the heights, and another express message to Putnam to retreat from the city and join the army on the heights.

Howe originally intended to break through the American line at Harlem, but the British army finally landed at Kip's Bay, foot of East Thirty-fourth Street, where an attack was made. The disheartened troops fled at the first approach of the enemy. Reinforcements that had been sent to them "caught the panic and joined in the scamper." Washington hurried to the scene of confusion and endeavored to rally them; but upon the approach of a few red-coats, they broke lines without firing a shot and fled.

Here we have an instance where he lost his self-control at the sight of such cowardice, for, dashing his hat to the ground, snapping his pistols at some, with his sword threatening others, he exclaimed: "Are these the men with whom I am to defend America?"

Had not an aide-de-camp seized his horse and hurried him away, he might have fallen into the hands of the enemy. This was one of those very rare moments in Washington's life when the slumbering fury of his strong nature was stirred from its utmost depths.

Henry P. Johnston, in his "The Battle of Harlem Heights," September 16, 1776, says:

"The rolls of the Continental Army show that many of these Kip's Bay cowards, officers and men alike, remained in the service to the end and cancelled their record for this day by gallant conduct on other fields."

Most of the troops retreated to Harlem Heights and joined the camp.

Washington directed Captain Thomas Knowlton, who had organized a small body of volunteers, "Rangers," to reconnoiter and report upon the movements of the enemy.

They cautiously took their way to the British line.

The enemy's advanced guards caught sight of them and gave the alarm. A short but brisk skirmish took place which led to the main fighting of the day, resulting in the "welcome victory" of Harlem Heights. In this action Colonel Knowlton and Major Leitch, leaders of side detachments, both lost their lives.

To quote again Henry P. Johnston: "It was our one Revolutionary success, and not a slight one if it came at the right moment, to restore confidence to our army, if it encouraged Washington when his anxiety was the greatest, if it made the enemy a little more wary and again delayed the advance; and if, as we follow many of the same men engaged, to the banks of the Delaware, we see it foreshadowing the possibility of Trenton and Princeton with which the gloomy year closed so brightly."

Then followed the movement to White Plains, the fall of Fort Washington, and the abandonment of Fort Lee. The retreat through New Jersey with a small army, exposed to bad weather, unaccustomed to hardships. Lee, whom Washington expected to join him,

wilfully disobeyed orders and remained away until he thought Washington's cause hopeless—for Lee wished to see Washington ruined that he himself might be placed in command. With an enemy six thousand strong in pursuit of his poorly equipped army, with all these disadvantages Washington remained firm, undaunted and buoyant in these dark days.

Before Congress adjourned they resolved "that until they should otherwise order, General Washington should be possessed of all power to order and direct all things relative to the department, and to the operations of war."

Then followed the victories of Trenton and of Princeton by which deadly blows were inflicted upon the enemy, and in a night the aspect of the war changed, the patriotic spirit of the country revived, and by the dignity, grandeur, "high-unbending" character of Washington and his great magnetism, the cause of the Revolution was saved.

"Frederic the Great is reported to have said that the victory at Trenton was the most brilliant campaign of the century."

Following the First Great Defensive Campaign, came the Northern Invasion, resulting in the great triumph at Saratoga, called by Sir Edward Creasy one of the Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World, and the surrender of Burgoyne, October 17, 1777.

Though this was not the direct work of Washington,

as the victory of Trenton was, it was indirectly his work, as most of the details passed through his hands, and by his precaution in forwarding artillery, ammunition and provisions, the army was kept supplied. This victory secured to the American cause the aid of France.

After General Howe had taken Philadelphia and turned his attention to the complete control of the Delaware, Washington went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. The terrible days spent there, the destitution caused by want of shelter, clothing and supplies, is best expressed by an extract from a letter Washington wrote to the President of Congress. "I do not know from what cause this alarming deficiency or rather total failure of supplies arises; but unless more vigorous exertions and better regulations take place in that line—the commissaries department—immediately, the army must dissolve. I have done all in my power by writing, by ordering the commissaries on this head from time to time; without any good effect or obtaining more than a present scanty relief. . . .

"Since the month of July we have had no assistance from the quartermaster-general. As a proof of the little benefit received from a clothier-general, and a further proof of the inability of an army, under the circumstances of this, to perform the common duties of soldiers—besides a number of men confined to hospitals for want of shoes, and others in farmers' houses

on the same account—we have, by a field return this day made, no less than two thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight men now in camp unfit for duty because they are barefoot and otherwise naked. I feel abundantly for them, and from my soul I pity those miseries which it is neither in my power to relieve nor prevent."

Henry Cabot Lodge says: "To have held on through that winter was a great feat, but to have built up and improved the army at such a time was much more wonderful. It shows a greatness of character and a force of will rather than military genius, and enables us to understand better, perhaps, than any of his victories, why it was that the success of the Revolution lay in the hands of one man."

A strong proof of Washington's real greatness is shown by his forbearance, toward the close of 1777, of the various cabals (conspiracies) formed against him. An extract from his correspondence in reference to these cabals proves the modesty, the dignity, and the magnanimity of Washington's character. "I was not unapprised that a malignant faction had been for some time forming to my prejudice, which, conscious as I am of having ever done all in my power to answer the important purposes of the trust reposed in me, could not but give me some pain on a personal account, but my chief concern arises from an apprehension of the dangerous consequences which intestine dissensions may

produce to the common cause. My enemies take an ungenerous advantage of me. They know the delicacy of my situation, and that motives of policy deprive me of the defence I might otherwise make against their insidious attacks. They know I cannot combat their insinuations, however injurious, without disclosing secrets it is of the utmost importance to conceal. But why should I expect to be exempt from censure, the unfailing lot of an elevated station? Merit and talents which I cannot pretend to rival have ever been subject to it. My heart tells me it has been my unremitted aim to do the best which circumstances would permit; yet I may have been very often mistaken in my judgment of the means, and may in many instances deserve the imputation of error."

General Conway, who had formed a cabal against Washington, believing himself to be mortally wounded, wrote to Washington: "I take this opportunity to express my sincere grief for having done, written or said anything disagreeable to your Excellency. My career will soon be over, therefore, justice and truth prompt me to declare my last sentiments. You are in my eyes the great and good man. May you long enjoy the love, veneration and esteem of these States whose liberties you have asserted by your virtues."

After Burgoyne's surrender and the alliance with France, the Americans assumed the offensive. Here we have the battle of Monmouth which would have been a

brilliant victory for the Americans had not Lee failed to fight and retreated. Washington met Lee and the main army in full retreat; he faced him, and almost savage with anger demanded: "What is the meaning of all this, sir?" Lee gave some unsatisfactory explanation, and was finally ordered to go to the rear, was tried by court-martial and suspended from the army. Of this retreat Washington wrote: "A retreat, however, was the fact, be the causes as they may, and the disorder arising from it would have proved fatal to the army had not that bountiful Providence, which has never failed us in the hour of distress, enabled me to form a regiment or two of those that were retreating in the face of the enemy and under their fire."

Monmouth was the last important battle fought in the North. After Monmouth, Clinton took refuge in New York, then Washington from convenient points on the Hudson watched the enemy, and the army was more comfortable than during any previous winter. Washington foresaw that the British would make a final struggle for victory and make it in the South; but he determined to stay, with his forces united upon New York and the Hudson. The war was transferred to the South, and with this came the disasters of 1780, some of which were, "The Capture of Charleston," "Arnold's Treason and Flight," "The Terrible Winter among the Heights of Morristown," scarcely less severe than that at Valley Forge, perhaps even worse, for the

men were driven to revolt. But the year closed with "Greene's Successful Campaign in the South," for he had won back the Carolinas and driven Cornwallis into Virginia. This brings us to the "Second Great Triumph," "The Crowning Victory of the War"—Yorktown. Washington's thoughts turned to the South, and he believed that now had come the time to effect a great strike and finish the war. Clinton in New York thought Washington was preparing to attack him, and even Washington's own army supposed this to be the plan. The short, simple and direct plan we have from Washington's own diary: "Matters have now come to a crisis, and a decided plan to be determined on. I was obliged—from the shortness of Count De Grasse's promised stay on the coast, the apparent disinclination of their naval officer to force the harbor of New York, and the feeble compliance of the States with my requisitions for men hitherto, and the little prospect of greater exertions in future—to give up all idea of attacking New York, and instead thereof to remove the French, troops and a detachment from the American army to Elkton at the head of Chesapeake Bay to be transported to Virginia for the purposes of coöperating with the force from the West Indies against the troops in that state." With the French fleet under Count de Grasse on one side, and the combined American and French army with Washington, Rochambeau and Lafayette on the other, the

British under Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, October 19, 1781. This practically ended the war. November 25, 1783, the British army evacuated New York, and December 4 Washington took farewell of his officers at Fraunces' Tavern in that city. On entering the room he looked around at his old companions who had undergone so many hardships with him, and simply said, "With a heart full of love and gratitude I now take leave of you, most devoutly wishing that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable. I cannot come to each of you to take my leave, but shall be obliged if each of you will come and take me by the hand."

In his address to Congress he said: "I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life, by commending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God and those who have the superintendence of them to His holy keeping. Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theater of action; and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body under whose orders I have long acted, I here offer my commission and take my leave of all the employments of public life." Lodge says: "They had listened to a speech not equaled in meaning and spirit in American history until, eighty years later, Abraham Lincoln stood upon the slopes of Gettysburg and uttered his

immortal words upon those who died that the country might live."

Washington hastened to Mt. Vernon. He said he hoped to spend the remainder of his days in cultivating the affections of good men and in the practice of domestic virtues. From his peaceful home at Mt. Vernon, where he enjoyed his domestic duties, seldom going beyond his own farms, but fully informed of the progress of affairs, he was again forced, by being chosen to preside over the Convention of Congress in 1787, to form a new Constitution which went into effect in 1789. By this Constitution Washington was unanimously chosen President.

He wrote to Lafayette: "It has no fascinating allurements for me. At my time of life and under my circumstances, the infirmities of nature and the growing love of retirement do not permit me to entertain a wish beyond that of living and dying an honest man on my own farm. Let those follow the pursuits of ambition and fame who have a keener relish for them, or who may have more years in store for the enjoyment."

The inauguration took place in New York City, April 30, 1789, at Federal Hall, where the Sub-treasury building snow stands.*

Washington held office for two terms, from 1789 to

* For a beautiful description of the ceremony, the reader is referred to Washington and his Country, by Irving and Fiske.

1797. His firm will and strong sense are again shown when France and England were at war and he issued his "Proclamation of Neutrality" stating "that we should take no part in European quarrels." Towards the close of his administration Washington experienced one of his hardest trials. Chief-Justice Jay obtained a new treaty with Great Britain, that of 1783 not being satisfactorily carried out. Jay's treaty did not satisfy the people, but Washington signed it, as it was the best that could be obtained at that time. Several papers attacked Washington, which greatly affected him, but could not detract from his character. Washington refused to be a candidate a third term, and retiring to Mt. Vernon he left the nation on a stronger foundation than he had found it. When war with France was threatened, President Adams wrote to urge him to take command of the army. "We must have your name," the President wrote; "there will be more efficiency in it than in many an army." Hamilton wrote: "In the event of an open rupture with France the public voice will again call you to the command of the armies of your country."

Washington's answer to President Adams shows his usual unselfishness: "In case of actual invasion by a formidable force, I certainly should not intrench myself under the cover of age or retirement, if my services should be required by my country to assist in repelling it."

On December 12, 1799, Washington caught a severe cold by riding in a rain, hail and snowstorm. The next day his throat was sore, yet he went out in the afternoon. On retiring he was urged by his secretary, Mr. Lear, to take something. "No," he replied, "you know I never take anything for a cold, let it go as it came." During the night he was extremely ill. His old friend, Dr. Craik, arrived, applied several remedies, but with no avail. Toward the afternoon he was assisted to sit up in bed. "I feel I am going," he said; "I thank you for your attentions, but I pray you will take no more trouble about me. Let me go quietly; I cannot last long."

Washington's last scene corresponded with his entire life. Though in extreme pain he died without a sigh or a struggle, and without uttering a word of complaint. His spirit was victorious in death as it had been in life.

On the night of December 14, 1799, he peacefully passed away.

"Such was the man, let distant ages know,
For whom Columbia droops in words of woe!
Peerless in life! ye wondering realm attend!
His fame was brightened by his glorious end!
By pain unmov'd, magnanimous in death,
He proved the hero with his latest breath!
His worth increasing with his reverend days,

He taught a nation virtue's radiant ways;
Then gently yielding life without a sigh
His last example taught them how to die!"

The character of Washington was marked by few prominent and distinguished features. Though as a whole it exhibited a singular instance of greatness, it possessed few individual elements in which it far surpassed the higher class of men. Its imposing effect is more dependent upon a nice balance and exact symmetry of parts, than upon the commanding stature of any of his faculties, if estimated singly. The greatness of Washington did not consist in any extraordinary development of the intellectual faculties; as little did his greatness depend upon his literary acquirements. Nor is the greatness of Washington to be attributed in any degree to that good fortune to which so many military commanders have owed their fame and success. His whole life was one constant difficulty and frequent disappointment. The elements of his greatness are chiefly to be discovered in the moral features of his character, to the spotless integrity which shines throughout his life, to his almost childlike simplicity of character, to that modesty which is the concomitant of true greatness, and to his patriotism. From the commencement to the close of a long and laborious life, he sacrificed to the love of his country his personal ease, his domestic pleasures, the care of a large property,

everything in fact that is usually held most dear. It is not enough to say of him that his morals were pure; there is every reason to believe that his virtue was spiritualized into piety. Throughout his public and private life nothing was more conspicuous than his profound respect for religion. From all these we can trace that singular disinterestedness in which he has no rival among the few possessors of equal power and influence.

CYRUS R. EDMONDS.

(Adapted.)

SELECTIONS FROM WASHINGTON'S LETTERS, SPEECHES AND ADDRESSES.

"Nothing is a greater stranger to my breast, or a sin that my soul abhors, than that black and detestable one, ingratitude."

From a Letter to Governor Dinwiddie, May 24, 1754.

"The sole motive which invites me to the field is the laudable desire of serving my country and not the gratification of any ambitious or ludicrous plans. To merit my country's esteem and the good will of my friends, is the sum of my ambition.

"I would therefore earnestly recommend, in every path of duty, willingness to undertake, and intrepid resolution to execute. Remember, that it is the actions and not the commission that make the officer, and that there is more expected from him than the title."

From an Address to the Officers of the Virginia Regiment.

To the Captains of Several Independent Companies in Virginia. Philadelphia, June, 1775.

"GENTLEMEN,

"I am now about to bid adieu to the companies under your respective commands, at least for a time. I have launched into a wide and extensive field, too boundless for my abilities, and far, very far, beyond my experience. I am called by the unanimous voice of the Colonies to the command of the Continental army; an honor I did not aspire to, an honor I was solicitous to avoid, upon a full conviction of my inadequacy to the importance of the service. I have only to beg of you, therefore, before I go, by no means to relax in the discipline of your respective companies."

"I cannot doubt but the asserters of freedom and the right of the Constitution are possessed of your most favorable regards and wishes for success. As descendants of freedom, and heirs with us of the same glorious inheritance, we flatter ourselves that, though divided by our situation, we are firmly united in sentiment. The cause of virtue and liberty is confined to no continent or climate. It comprehends within its capacious limits the wise and good, however dispersed and separated in space and distance."

To the Inhabitants of the Island of Bermuda.

"While we are contending for our own liberty, we

should be very cautious not to violate the rights of conscience in others, ever considering that God alone is the judge of the hearts of men, and to Him only they are answerable."

To Colonel Benedict Arnold, 1775.

"The man who means to commit no wrong will never be guilty of enormities; consequently he can never be unwilling to learn what is ascribed to him as foibles. If they are really such, the knowledge of them in a well-disposed mind will go half way towards a reform. If they are not errors he can explain and justify the motives of his actions."

To Robert Morris, Trenton, January 1, 1777.

"Yours of the 31st of last month enclosed to me sundry resolves of Congress, by which I find they have done me the honor to entrust me with powers in my military capacity, of the highest nature and almost unlimited in extent. Instead of thinking myself freed from all civil obligations, by this mark of their confidence, I shall constantly bear in mind that as the sword was the last resort for the preservation of our liberties, so it ought to be the first thing laid aside, when those liberties are firmly established."

In a circular from the Commander-in-chief to the Brigadier-general, dated the 26th of May, 1777, are the

following instructions: "Let vice and immorality of every kind be discouraged as much as possible in your brigade; and as a chaplain is allowed to each regiment, see that the men regularly attend divine service. Gaming of every kind is expressly forbidden, as being the foundation of evil and the cause of many a brave and gallant officer's ruin. Games of exercise for amusement may not only be permitted but encouraged."

To Patrick Henry, Valley Forge, 27th March, 1778.

"I have ever been happy in supposing that I had a place in your esteem and the proof you have afforded makes me peculiarly so. The favorable light in which you hold me is truly flattering; but I should feel much regret, if I thought the happiness of America so intimately connected with my personal welfare as you so obligingly seem to consider it. All I can say is, that she has ever had, and I trust she ever will have, my honest exertions to promote her interest. I cannot hope that my services have been the best; but my heart tells me they have been the best that I could render."

"However it may be the practise of the world and those who see objects but partially or through a false medium, to consider *that* only as meritorious which is attended with success, I have accustomed myself to judge human actions very differently, and to appreci-

ate them by the manner in which they are conducted more than by the event; which it is not in the power of human foresight and prudence to command."

"My political creed is, to be wise in the choice of delegates, support them like gentlemen while they are our representatives, give them complete powers for all federal purposes, support them in the due exercise thereof, and lastly to compel them to close attendance in Congress during their delegation."

"We ought not to look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience. To enveigh against things that are past and irremediable is unpleasing; but to steer clear of the shelves and rocks we have struck upon is the part of wisdom, equally as incumbent on political as other men who have their own little bark or that of others to navigate through the intricate paths of life or the trackless ocean, to the haven of security or rest."

Extracts from a Circular Letter addressed to the Governors of all the States on Disbanding the Army, Newburgh, 8 June, 1783.

"SIR:—The great object for which I had the honor to hold an appointment in the service of my country, being accomplished, I am now preparing to resign it

into the hands of Congress and to return to that domestic retirement which it is well known I left with the greatest reluctance; a retirement for which I have never ceased to sigh, through a long and painful absence, and in which I meditate to pass the remainder of life, in a state of undisturbed repose. But before I carry this resolution into effect, I think it a duty incumbent on me to make this, my last official communication; to congratulate you on the glorious events which Heaven has been pleased to produce in our favor; to offer my sentiments respecting some important subjects which appear to me to be intimately connected with the tranquillity of the United States, to take my leave of your excellency as a public character, and to give my final blessing to that country in whose service I have spent the prime of my life, for whose sake I have consumed so many anxious days and watchful nights, and whose happiness being so extremely dear to me, will always constitute no inconsiderable part of my own."

From the same circular letter:

"The foundation of our empire was not laid in the gloomy age of ignorance and superstition, but at an epoch when the rights of mankind were better understood and more clearly defined than at any former period. The researches of the human mind after social happiness have been carried to a great extent; the

treasures of knowledge, acquired by the labors of philosophers, sages and legislators through a long succession of years, are laid open for our use, and their collected wisdom may be happily applied in the establishment of our forms of government."

From the same:

"The free cultivation of letters, the unbounded extension of commerce, the progressive refinement of manners, the growing liberality of sentiment, and above all the power and benign light of revelation, have had a meliorating influence on mankind and increased the blessings of society. An indissoluble union of the states under one federal head—a sacred regard to public justice—the adoption of a proper peace establishment, and the prevalence of that pacific and friendly disposition among the people of the United States which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and politics; to make those mutual concessions which are requisite to the general prosperity and in some instances to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the community—these are the pillars on which the glorious fabric of our independence and national character must be supported. Liberty is the basis, and whoever would dare to sap the foundation or overturn the structure, under whatever specious pretext he may attempt it, will merit the bitterest exe-

cration, and the severest punishment which can be inflicted by his injured country."

From the same:

"I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you and the State over which you preside in his holy protection; that he would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to the government; to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethern who have served in the field and finally that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation."*

Washington on Slavery:

"There is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see a plan adopted for the abolition

* The various legislatures passed resolutions highly honorable to the Commander-in-Chief, and the governors of the States wrote letters expressing thanks and gratitude for his long, successful services in the cause of his country.—The author of this collection calls attention to the applicability of these extracts to any and to all times.

of slavery; but there is only one proper and effectual mode by which it can be accomplished and that is by legislative authority, and this as far as my suffrage will go shall never be wanting."

"Ignorance and design are difficult to combat. Out of these proceed illiberal sentiments, improper jealousies and a train of evils which oftentimes must be sorely felt, before they can be removed. The former, that is ignorance, being a fit soil for the latter to work in, tools are employed by them which a generous mind would disdain to use, and which nothing but time and their own puerile or wicked productions can show the inefficacy and dangerous tendency of."

In a Letter to Lafayette, Washington expresses his views on Commerce.

"Although I pretend to no peculiar information respecting commercial affairs, nor any foresight into the scenes of futurity, yet, as a member of an infant empire, as a philanthropist by character, and if I may be allowed the expression, as a citizen of the great republic of humanity at large, I cannot help turning my attention sometimes to this subject. I would be understood to mean I cannot avoid reflecting with pleasure on the probable influence that commerce may hereafter have on human manners and society in general. On these

occasions I consider how mankind may be connected like one great family of fraternal ties. I indulge a fond, perhaps an enthusiastic idea, that as the world is evidently much less barbarous than it has been, its melioration must still be progressive ; that nations are becoming more humanized in their policy, that the subjects of ambition and causes for hostility are daily diminishing, and in fine, that the period is not very remote when the benefits of a liberal and free commerce will pretty generally succeed to the devastations and horrors of war."

"Men's minds are as varied as their faces, and where the motives to their actions are pure, the operation of the former is no more to be imputed to them as a crime than the appearance of the latter; for both being the work of nature are equally unavoidable. Liberality and charity, instead of clamor and misrepresentation, which latter only serve to foment the passions without enlightening the understanding, ought to govern in all disputes about matters of importance."

From Washington's Inaugural Address, April 30, 1789.

"It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplication to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can

supply every human defect that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States, a government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to its charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible hand which conducts the affairs of man more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of Providential Agency."

"To the preceding observations I have one to add. It concerns myself and will therefore be as brief as possible. When I was first honored with a call into the service of my country, the light in which I contemplated my duty required that I should renounce every pecuniary compensation. From this resolution I have in no instance departed, and being still under the impressions which produced it, I must decline as inapplicable to myself any share in the personal emoluments which may be indispensably included in a permanent provision for the executive department; and must accordingly pray that the pecuniary estimates for

the station in which I am placed, may, during my continuance in it, be limited to such actual expenditures as the public good may be thought to require."

How Washington held the public trust is shown in the following :

" I will go to the chair under no pre-engagement of any kind or nature whatsoever. But when in it, to the best of my judgment, discharge the duties of the office with that impartiality and zeal for the public good which ought never suffer connection of blood or friendship to intermingle so as to have the least sway in the decision of a public nature."

"We are all children of the same country—a country great and rich in itself, capable and promising to be as prosperous and as happy as any annals of history have ever brought to our view. That our interest however diversified in local and smaller matters is the same in all great and essential concerns of the nation. That the established government being the work of our own hands, with the seeds of amendment engrafted in the constitution, may by wisdom, good dispositions and mutual allowances, aided by experience, bring it as near to perfection as any human institution ever approximated ; and therefore the only strife among us ought to be who should be foremost in facilitating and finally accomplishing such great and desirable objects

by giving every possible support and cement to the Union."—From a Letter to Madison, 1792.

"If it can be esteemed a happiness to live in an age productive of great and interesting events, we of the present age are very highly favored. The rapidity of national revolutions appear no less astonishing than their magnitude. In what they will terminate is known only to the Great Ruler of events; and confiding in His wisdom and goodness we may safely trust the issue to Him, without perplexing ourselves to seek for that which is beyond human ken, only taking care to perform the parts assigned to us in a way that reason and our own consciences approve."—From a Letter, 1793.

"To administer justice to and receive it from every power with whom they are connected will, I hope, be always found the prominent feature in the administration of this country; and I flatter myself that nothing short of imperious necessity can occasion a breach with any of them."

"Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness. In one of which the measures of government receive their impression so immediately from the sense of the community as in ours, it is proportionably essential. To the security of a free constitution it contributes in various ways; by convincing those who are instructed with the public administra-

tion, that every valuable end of government is best answered by the enlightened confidence of the people and by teaching the people themselves to know and to value their own rights; to discern and to provide against invasions of them; to distinguish between oppression and the necessary exercise of lawful authority; to discriminate the spirit of liberty from that of licentiousness, cherishing the first, avoiding the latter, and uniting a speedy but temperate vigilance against encroachment with an inviolable respect to the laws."—From a Speech to both Houses of Congress, 1790.

"Let praise be given to every description of citizens. Let them persevere in their affectionate vigilance over that precious depository of American happiness, the Constitution of the United States. Let them cherish it too, for the sake of those, who, from every clime, are daily seeking a dwelling in our land.

"Let us unite therefore in imploring the Supreme Ruler of nations to spread His holy protection over these United States; to enable us at all times to root out internal seditions and put invasion to flight; to perpetuate to our country that prosperity which His goodness has already conferred; and to verify the anticipations of this government being a safeguard to human rights."—From a Speech to both Houses of Congress, 1794.

The following extracts are from Washington's Farewell Address to the People of the United States.

"In looking forward to the moment which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude, which I owe to my beloved country for the many honors it has conferred upon me; still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me; and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment, by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal.

"If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise, and as an instructive example in our annals, that under circumstances in which the passions, agitated in every direction, were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts, and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected."

"Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to the grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence; that your union and

brotherly affection may be perpetual; that the free constitution which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue; that in fine, the happiness of the people of these States, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete, by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing, as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection, and adoption of every nation, which is yet a stranger to it."

"The unity of Government which constitutes you one people is also dear to you. It is justly so: for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquillity at home, your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very liberty, which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee, that from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment, that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment

to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the Palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion, that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts."

"While then, every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in Union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionately greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value, they must derive from Union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same governments, which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues would stimulate and embitter."

"This Government, the offspring of our own choice, uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its

principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true Liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government. But the Constitution which at any time exists, till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish Government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established Government."

"It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution, in those intrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominates in the human heart, is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position."

"Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens. The mere Politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in Courts of Justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

"It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule, indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who, that is a sincere friend to it, can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?"

"Promote, then, as an object of primary importance,

institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened."

"As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is, to use it as sparingly as possible; avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, but remembering also that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning the occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts, which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burthen, which we ourselves ought to bear."

"Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and Morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be, that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free enlightened and at no distant period a great Nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things, the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which

might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a Nation with its Virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature."

"The nation which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable, when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur.

"The nation, prompted by ill-will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the Government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The Government sometimes participates in the national propensity, and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition, and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty, of nations has been the victim."

"The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is, in extending our commercial relations,

to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world ; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it ; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy."

" Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand ; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences ; consulting the natural course of things ; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce, but forcing nothing ; establishing, with powers so disposed, in order to give trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them, conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate."

" In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels

of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish; that they will control the usual current of the passions, or prevent our nation from running the course, which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations. But, if I may flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good; that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism; this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare, by which they have been dictated."

"Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they tend. I shall also carry with me the hope, that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence; and, that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest."

"Relying on its kindness in this as in other things,

and actuated by that fervent love towards it, which is so natural to a man, who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations; I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize, without alloy, the sweet enjoyment of partaking in the midst of my fellow-citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government, the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors, and dangers.*

"GEORGE WASHINGTON."

United States, September 17, 1796.

* See "The Writings of George Washington by Worthington Chauncy Ford," vol. 13, pp. 277–325, to compare the original draft with Hamilton's draft.

* The original MS. may be seen in the Lenox Library, New York City. The Hamilton drafts in the Department of State, Washington. D. C.

* See copy of Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, Sept. 19, 1796, for words in Washington's handwriting as an instruction to the copyist who recorded the Address in the letter-book.

A FEW SELECTIONS FROM WASHINGTON'S RULES OF CIVILITY.*

Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another, though he were your enemy.

When you see a crime punished you may be inwardly pleased; but always show pity to the suffering offender.

Superfluous compliments and all affectation of ceremony are to be avoided, yet, where due, they are not to be neglected.

Do not express joy before one sick or in pain, for that contrary passion will aggravate his misery.

When a man does all he can though it succeed not well, blame not him that did it.

Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparagement of any.

In your apparel be modest, and endeavor to accommodate Nature, rather than to procure admiration; keep to the fashion of your equals.

Associate yourself with men of good quality, if you

* In the State Archives at Washington is a manuscript which Washington used as a boy, in which he copied about a hundred or more rules of conduct.

Their source has been traced to an old French book on Behavior.

esteem your own reputation ; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company.

Speak not injurious words neither in jest nor in earnest; scoff at none although they give occasion.

Gaze not at the marks or blemishes of others and ask not how they came. What you may speak in secret to your friend, deliver not before others.

Nothing but harmony, honest industry and frugality are necessary to make us a great people. First impressions are generally the most lasting. It is therefore absolutely necessary, if you mean to make any figure upon the stage, that you should take the first steps right.

There is a destiny which has the control of our actions not to be resisted by the strongest efforts of Human Nature.

Let your heart feel for the afflictions and distresses of every one, and let your hand give in proportion to your purse; remembering always the widow's mite, but that it is not every one who asketh that deserveth charity; all, however, are worthy the inquiry, or the deserving may suffer.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

I consider storms and victory under the direction of a wise Providence who no doubt directs them for the best purposes, and to bring round the greatest degree of happiness to the greatest number.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

It is not my wish that severity should be exercised toward any whom the fortune of war has thrown or shall throw into our hands. On the contrary, it is my desire that the utmost humanity should be shown them.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Happiness depends more upon the internal frame of a person's mind, than on the externals in the world.
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The thinking part of mankind do not form their judgments from events, and that chief equity will ever attach equal glory to those actions which deserve success, as to those which have been crowned with it.
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To see plants rise from the earth and flourish by the superior skill and bounty of the laborer, fills a contemplative mind with ideas which are more easy to be conceived than expressed.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To constitute a dispute there must be two parties. To understand it well both parties and all the circumstances must be fully heard; and to accommodate differences, temper and mutual orbearance are requisite.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Idleness is disreputable under any circumstances; productive of no good even when unaccompanied by vicious habits.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

It is not uncommon in prosperous gales to forget that adverse winds blow.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Economy in all things is as commendable in the manager, as it is beneficial and desirable to the employer.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

It is unfortunate when men cannot or will not see danger at a distance; or seeing it, are undetermined in the means which are necessary to avert or keep it afar off.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Every man who is in the vigor of life ought to serve his country in whatever line it requires and he is fit for.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Rise early, that by habit it may become familiar, agreeable, healthy and profitable. It may, for a while be irksome to do this, but that will wear off; and the practice will produce a rich harvest forever thereafter, whether in public or in private walks of life.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

BEAUTIFUL THOUGHTS ABOUT WASHINGTON.

No man ever stood for so much to his country and to mankind as George Washington. Hamilton, Jefferson, Adams, Madison and Jay each represented some of the elements which formed the Union. Washington embodied them all.

The superiority of Washington's character and genius were more conspicuous in the formation of our government and in putting it on indestructible foundations than leading armies to victory and conquering the independence of his country. "The Union in any event" is the central thought of the "Farewell Address" and all the years of his grand life were devoted to its formation and preservation.

Do his countrymen exaggerate his virtues? Listen to Guizot, the historian of civilization: "Washington did the two greatest things which in politics it is permitted to man to attempt. He maintained by peace the independence of his country which he conquered by war. He founded a free government in the name of the principles of order and by reestablishing their sway."

Hear Lord Erskine, the most famous of English advocates: "You are the only being for whom I have an awful reverence."

Remember the tribute of Charles James Fox, the greatest parliamentary orator who ever swayed the British House of Commons: "Illustrious man, before whom all borrowed greatness sinks into insignificance."

Contemplate the character of Lord Brougham, pre-eminent for two generations in every department of human thought and activity, and then impress upon the memories of your children his deliberate judgment: "Until time shall be no more will a test of our progress which our race has made in wisdom and virtue be derived from the veneration paid to the immortal name of Washington."

Blot out from the page of history the names of all the great actors of his time in the drama of nations, and preserve the name of Washington, and the century would be renowned.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW.

When I first read in detail the life of Washington, I was profoundly impressed with the moral elevation and greatness of his character, and I found myself at a loss to name among the statesmen of any age or country many, or possibly any who could be his rival. In saying this I mean no disparagement to the class of

politicians, the men of my own craft and cloth, whom, in my own land, and my own experience, I have found no less worthy than other men of love and admiration. I could name among them those who seem to me to come near even to him. But I will shut out the last half century from the comparison. I will then say that if, among all the pedestals supplied by history for public characters of extraordinary nobility and purity, I saw one higher than all the rest, and if I were required at a moment's notice to name the fittest occupant for it, I think my choice at any time during the last forty-five years would have lighted, as it would now light, upon Washington.

WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE.

Welcome, thou festal morn!
Never be passed in scorn
Thy rising sun,
Thou day forever bright
With Freedom's holy light,
That gave the world the sight
Of Washington.

Unshaken 'mid the storm,
Behold that noble form—
That peerless one—

With his protecting hand,
Like Freedom's angel stand
The guardian of our land,
Our Washington.

Then with each coming year,
Whenever shall appear
That natal sun,
Will we attest the worth
Of one true man on earth,
And celebrate the birth
Of Washington.

Traced there in lines of light,
Where all pure rays unite,
Obscured by none;
Brightest on history's page,
Of any clime or age,
As chieftain, man and sage,
Stands Washington.

Name at which tyrant's pale,
And their proud legions quail,
Their boasting done;
While Freedom lifts her head,
No longer filled with dread,
Her sons to victory led
By Washington.

Now the true patriot seek,
The foremost of the free,
The victory won.
In Freedom's presence bow,
While sweetly smiling now,
She wreaths the smiling brow
Of Washington.

Then with each coming year,
Whenever shall appear
That natal sun,
Shall we attest the worth
Of one true man to earth,
And celebrate the birth
Of Washington.

GEORGE HOWLAND.

Extract from an address by President Cary of the Union League Club, at the celebration of Washington's Birthday at the Auditorium, Chicago, February 22, 1900.

It is needless to dispute with others as to Washington's rank in minor things. We know that for us and for our country his is the greatest name that lives; that in the grand struggle and march for freedom he was humanity's greatest leader, and that through us as

a nation he gave to the world its chiefest example of republican self-government. And now that his greatness is acknowledged and his praises sung the world round, our hearts swell with pride and gratitude that he is ours; our countryman; our great American; our Washington. Not the safe and invincible general merely, not the wise first President, but George Washington, the sublime personality, greatest seen when all props and scaffoldings of rank and station are torn away.

From Green's History of the English People.

No nobler figure ever stood in the forefront of a nation's life. Washington was grave and courteous in address; his manners were simple and unpretending; his silence and the serene calmness of his temper spoke of a perfect self-mastery; but there was little in his outer bearing to reveal the grandeur of soul which lifts his figure with all the simple majesty of an ancient statue, out of the smaller passions, the meaner impulses of the world around him.

It was only as the weary fight went on that the colonists learned, little by little the greatness of their leader—his clear judgment, his heroic endurance, his silence under difficulties, his calmness in the hour of danger or defeat; the patience with which he waited, the quickness and hardness with which he struck, the

lofty and serene sense of duty that never swerved from its task through resentment or jealousy, that never, through war or peace, felt the touch of a meaner ambition; that knew no aim save that of guarding the freedom of his fellow-countrymen; and no personal longing save that of returning to his own fireside when their freedom was secured.

It was almost unconsciously that men learned to cling to Washington with a trust and faith such as few other men have won, and to regard him with reverence which still hushes us in presence of his memory.

Washington's is the mightiest name of earth—long since mightiest in the cause of civil liberty; still mightiest in moral reformation. On that name no eulogy is expected. It cannot be. To add brightness to the sun, or glory to the name of Washington is alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in its naked deathless splendor leave it shining on.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Washington cannot be stripped of any part of his credit for patriotism, wisdom and courage; for the union of enterprise with prudence; for integrity and truthfulness; for simply dignity of character; for tact and forbearance in dealing with men; above all for serene fortitude in the darkest hour of his cause and

under trials from the perversity, insubordination, jealousy and perfidy of those around him, severer than any defeat.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

Modest, kindly, all-accomplish'd, wise,
With a sublime repression of himself,
Not swaying to this faction or to that;
Not making his high place the lawless perch
Of wing'd ambition; but thro' all the tract of years
Wearing the white flower of a blameless life.

From a New England Magazine.

Lafayette's famous toast.

"The City of Alexandria! May her prosperity and happiness more and more realize the fondest wishes of our venerated Washington."

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

'Tis splendid to live so grandly
  That long after you are gone,
The things you did are remembered,
  And recounted under the sun;

To live so bravely and purely,
  That a nation stops on its way,
And once a year, with banner and drum,
  Keeps its thought of your natal day.

'Tis splendid to have a record,
  So white and free from stain
That, held to the light, it shows no blot,
  Though tested and tried amain;
That age to age forever
  Repeats its story of love,
And your birthday lives in a nation's heart,
  All other days above.

And this is Washington's glory,
  A steadfast soul and true,
Who stood for his country's honor
  When his country's days were few.
And now when its days are many,
  And its flag of stars is flung
To the breeze in defiant challenge,
  His name is on every tongue.

Yes, it's splendid to live so bravely,
  To be so great and strong,
That your memory is ever a tocsin
  To rally the foes of the wrong;

To live so proudly and purely
That your people pause in their way,
And year by year, with banner and drum,
Keep the thought of your natal day.

MARGARET SANGSTER.

The life of our Washington cannot suffer by a comparison with those of other countries who have been most celebrated and exalted by fame. The attributes and decorations of royalty could have only served to eclipse the majesty of those virtues which made him from being a modest citizen, a more resplendent luminary.

Malice could never blast his honor, and envy made him a single exception to her universal rule. For himself he had lived enough to life and to glory. For his fellow-citizens if their prayers could have been answered he would have been immortal. His example is complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue to magistrates, citizens and men, not only in the present age, but in future generations, as long as our history shall be read.

JOHN ADAMS.

"His character, though regular and uniform, possessed none of the littleness which may sometimes belong to these descriptions of men. It formed a

majestic pile, the effect of which was not inspired but improved by order and symmetry. There was nothing in it to dazzle by wildness, and surprise by eccentricity. It was of a higher species of moral beauty. It contained everything great and elevated, but it had no false or trivial ornament. It was not the model cried up by fashion and circumstance: its excellence was adapted to the true and just moral taste, incapable of change from the varying accidents of manners, of opinions and times. General Washington is not the idol of a day, but the hero of ages."

Land of the West! though passing brief the record of thine age,
Thou hast a name that darkens all the world's wide page!
Let all the blasts of fame ring out—thine shall be loudest far;
Let others boast their satellites—thou hast the planet star.
Thou hast a name whose characters of light shall ne'er depart;
'Tis stamped upon the dullest brain, and warms the coldest heart;
A war-cry fit for any land where freedom's to be won,

Land of the West!—it stands alone—it is thy Washington!

He fought, but not with love of strife; he struck, but to defend;
And ere he turned a people's foe, he sought to be a friend.
He strove to keep his country's right by Reason's gentle word,
And sighed when fell Injustice threw the challenge—sword to sword.
He stood the firm, the calm, the wise, the patriot and sage;
He showed no deep avenging hate, no burst of despot rage;
He stood for Liberty and Truth, and dauntlessly led on
Till shouts of victory gave forth the name of Washington.

No car of triumph bore him through a city filled with grief.
No groaning captives at the wheels proclaimed him victor-chief;
He broke the gyves of slavery with strong and high disdain,
But cast no scepter from the links when he had crushed the chain.

He saved his land, but did not lay his soldier trappings down
To change them for the regal vest and don a kingly crown;
Fame was too earnest in her joy, too proud of such a son
To let a robe and title mask a noble Washington.

ELIZA COOK.*

Washington stands alone and unapproachable like a snow peak rising above its fellows into the clear air of morning, with a dignity, constancy and purity which have made him the ideal type of civic virtue to succeeding generations.

JAMES BRYCE.

Washington may fitly be called the father, not only of his country, but as well of the regular army. With the clear sight of a great general he foresaw that, while a large standing army was to be feared as hostile to that civil liberty he and his compatriots of the Revolution had so gloriously struggled to establish in America, a well-organized, thoroughly disciplined, though small, body of regular troops was absolutely essential to the

* Eliza Cook, an English poetess, 1817–1889.

preservation of that same liberty, whether from foreign aggressions or internal strife.

RICHARD S. TUTHILL.

He did the two greatest things which in politics a man can have the privilege of attempting. He maintained by peace that independence of his country which he had acquired by war. He founded a free government in the name of the principles of order and by re-establishing their sway. Of all great men he was the most virtuous and the most fortunate. In the world God has no higher favors to bestow.

GUIZOT.*

The American Constitution is, so far as I can see, the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.

WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE.

Pale is the February sky,
  And brief the midday's sunny hours;
The wind swept forest seems to sigh
  For the sweet time of leaves and flowers.

* French historian and statesman, 1787–1874.

Yet has no month a prouder day,
  Not even when the Summer broods
O'er meadows in their fresh array,
  Or Autumn tints the glowing woods.

For this chill season now again
  Brings, in its annual round, the morn
When, greatest of the sons of men,
  Our glorious Washington was born!

* * * * * * *

Amid the wreck of thrones shall live
  Unmarred, undimmed, our hero's fame;
And years succeeding years shall give
  Increase of honors to his name.

BRYANT.

Washington, the warrior and legislator! In war contending, by the wager of battle, for the independence of his country and for the freedom of the human race; ever manifesting amidst its horrors, by precept and example, his reverence for the laws of peace and the tenderest sympathies of humanity: in peace soothing the ferocious spirit of discord among his countrymen into harmony and union; and giving to that very sword, now presented to his country, a charm more

potent than that attributed, in ancient times, to the lyre of Orpheus.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

No truth can be uttered with more confidence than that his ends were always upright and his means always pure. He exhibits the rare example of a politician to whom wiles were absolutely unknown, and whose professions to foreign governments and to his own country were always sincere. In him was fully exemplified the real distinction which forever exists between wisdom and cunning, and the importance as well as the truth of the maxim that "honesty is the best policy."

JOHN MARSHALL.

As the generations have come and gone the Farewell Address has grown dearer to the hearts of the American people, and the children and the children's children of those to whom it was addressed have turned to it in all times, and have known that there was no room for error in following its counsel.

HENRY CABOT LODGE.

George Washington may justly be pronounced one of the greatest men whom the world has produced.

Greater soldiers, more intellectual statesmen, and profounder sages have doubtlessly existed in the history of the English race—perhaps in our own country—but no one who to great excellence in each of these fields has added such exalted integrity, such unaffected piety, such unsullied purity of soul, and such wondrous control of his own spirit. That one grand rounded life, full-orbed with intellectual and moral glory, is worth, as the product of Christianity, more than all the dogmas of all the teachers. He was a blessing to the whole human race, no less than to his own countrymen—to the many millions who celebrate the day of his birth.

ZEBULON B. VANCE.*

Welcome to the day returning,
  Dearer still as ages flow,
While the torch of Faith is burning,
  Long as Freedom's altars glow!
See the hero whom it gave us
  Slumbering on a mother's breast;
For the arm he stretched to save us
  Be its morn forever blest!

* An American public man, 1830—1894. Governor of N. C., and U. S. Senator.

Vain is empire's mad temptation!
  Not for him an earthly crown!
He whose sword has freed a nation
  Strikes the offered scepter down.
See the throneless conquerer seated,
  Ruler by a people's choice;
See the patriot's task completed;
  Hear the Father's dying voice:

"By the name that you inherit,
  By the sufferings you recall,
Cherish the fraternal spirit;
  Love your country first of all!
Listen not to idle questions
  If its bands may be untied;
Doubt the patriot whose suggestions
  Strive a nation to divide."

Father! we, whose ears have tingled
  With the discord notes of shame;
We, whose sires their blood have mingled
  In the battle's thunder-flame,—
Gathering, while this holy morning
  Lights the land from sea to sea,
Hear thy counsel, heed thy warning;
  Trust us while we honor thee.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life; pious, just, humane, temperate, and sincere; uniform, dignified, and commanding, his example was as edifying to all around him, as were the effects of that example lasting.

HENRY LEE.*

Happy was it for America, happy for the world, that a great name, a guardian genius, presided over her destinies in war. The hero of America was the conqueror only of his country's foes, and the hearts of his countrymen. To the one he was a terror, and in the other he gained an ascendency, supreme, unrivaled, the triumph of admiring gratitude, the reward of a nation's love.

JARED SPARKS.†

The sword of Washington! The staff of Franklin! Oh, sir, what associations are linked in adamant with these names! Washington, whose sword, as my friend has said, was never drawn but in the cause of his country, and never sheathed when wielded in his country's

* Lee was in Congress when the death of the great American was announced and he coined the famous "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

† Jared Sparks, American historian and biographer, 1789–1866.

cause! Franklin, the philosopher of the thunderbolt, the printing-press, and the plowshare.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

Others of our great men have been appreciated,—many admired by all. But him we love. Him we all love. About and around him we call up no dissentient and discordant and dissatisfied elements, no sectional prejudice nor bias, no party, no creed, no dogma of politics. None of these shall assail him. When the storm of battle blows darkest and rages highest, the memory of Washington shall nerve every American arm and cheer every American heart. It shall relume that Promethean fire, that sublime flame of patriotism, that devoted love of country, which his words have commended, which his example has consecrated?

RUFUS CHOATE.*

Where may the wearied eye repose
  When gazing on the great,
Where neither guilty glory glows
  Nor despicable state?
Yes,—one, the first, the last, the best,
The Cincinnatus of the West,
  Whom envy dared not hate,

* American advocate and jurist, 1799–1859.

Bequeathed the name of Washington
To make men blush there was but one?

LORD BYRON.

Washington deserved the lofty praise bestowed upon him by the President of Congress when he resigned his commission,—that he had always regarded the rights of the civil authority through all changes and through all disasters.

JEREMIAH BLACK.*

Reserved but not haughty in his disposition, he was accessible to all in concerns of business, but he opened himself only to his confidential friends; and no art or address could draw from him an opinion which he thought prudent to conceal. He was not so much distinguished for brilliancy of genius as for solidity of judgment and consummate prudence of conduct. He was not so eminent for any one quality of greatness and worth as for the union of those great, amiable and good qualities which are very rarely combined in the same character.

AARON BANCROFT.

His countrymen are charged with fond idolatry of

* American jurist, 1810–1883.

his memory, and his greatness is pleasantly depreciated as a mythological exaggeration. But no church ever canonized a saint more worthily than he is canonized by the natural affection; and to no ancient hero, benefactor, or law-giver were divine honors so justly decreed, as to Washington, the homage of the world.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

Extract from "Washington's Vow," a poem by Whittier, read at the dedication of the Washington Arch at New York City, 1889.

How felt the land in every part
The strong throb of a nation's heart?
As its great leader gave, with reverent awe,
His pledge to Union, Liberty, and Law!

That pledge the heavens above him heard,
That vow the sleep of centuries stirred.
In world-wide wonder listening peoples bent
Their gaze on Freedom's great experiment.

. . . . . .

Thank God! the people's choice was just!
The one man equal to his trust.
Wise without lore, and without weakness good,
Calm in the strength of flawless rectitude.

. . . . . .

Our first and Best—his ashes lie
Beneath his own Virginian sky.
Forgive, forget, oh! true and just and brave,
The storm that swept above thy sacred grave.

. . . . . .

Then let the sovereign millions where
Our banner floats in sun and air,
From the warm palm-lands to Alaska's cold,
Repeat with us the pledge, a century old!

I see in Washington a great soldier, who fought a trying war to a successful end impossible without him; a great statesman who did more than all other men to lay the foundations of a republic which has endured in prosperity for more than a century. I find in him a marvelous judgment which was never at fault, a penetrating vision which beheld the future of America when it was dim to other eyes, a great intellectual force, a will of iron, an unyielding grasp of facts, and an unequaled strength of patriotic purpose. I see in him too, a pure and high-minded gentleman of dauntless courage and stainless honor, simple and stately of manner, kind and generous of heart. Such he was in truth. The historian and the biographer may fail to do him justice, but the instinct of mankind will not fail. The real hero needs not books to give him

worshippers. George Washington will always receive the love and reverence of men, because they see embodied in him the noblest possibilities of humanity.

HENRY CABOT LODGE.

"The foundations of the moral world?" said a wise teacher in Oxford University, bidding young Englishmen mark the matchless man,—"the foundations of the moral world were shaken, but not the understanding of Washington." He held his steadfast way, like the sun across the firmament, giving life and health and strength to the new nation, and, upon a searching survey of his administration, which established the fundamental principles of American policy in every department, there is no great act which his country would annul, no word spoken, no line written, which justice would reverse or wisdom deplore.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

All hail, thou glorious morn
That Washington was born!
All hail to thee!
Whether thy skies be bright,
Or veiled in clouds of night,
To thee in joyous right
Our song shall be.

All come with glad acclaim,
To sing and praise thy name,
O Washington!
O'er all this land so free,
Hearts turn with pride to thee,
Champion of liberty,
Columbia's son.

When Britain's tyrant hand
Smote freedom's native land
With mad decree,
The gleaming blade, raised high,
'Mid war-clouds rolling by,
Wrote on thy country's sky,
"Great land, be free."

Let Freedom each year bring
Chaplets as fresh as spring
To deck her son!
While Freedom's angels stand
Guard o'er that flag and land,
Saved by the mighty hand
Of Washington.

CHARLES S. DAVIS.

MOUNT VERNON.

There dwelt the Man, the flower of human kind,
Whose visage mild bespoke his noble mind;
There dwelt the Soldier, who his sword ne'er drew
But in a righteous cause, to Freedom true;
There dwelt the Hero, who ne'er fought for fame,
Yet gained more glory than a Cæsar's name;
There dwelt the Statesman, who, devoid of art,
Gave soundest counsels from an upright heart;
And oh, Columbia, by thy sons caressed,
There dwelt the Father of the realms he blessed,
Who no wish felt to make his mighty praise,
Like other chiefs, the means himself to raise;
But there retiring, breathed in pure renown,
And felt a grandeur that disdained a crown.

REV. WM. JAY.

Let a man fasten himself to some great idea, some large truth, some noble cause, even in the affairs of this world, and it will send him forward with energy, with steadfastness, with confidence? This is what Emerson meant when he said: "Hitch your wagon to a star." These are the potent, the commanding, the enduring men,—in our own history, men like Washington and Lincoln. They may fall, they may

be defeated, they may perish; but onward moves the cause, and their souls go marching on with it, for they are part of it, they have believed in it.

HENRY VAN DYKE.

Washington acted from that pure and deep-seated principle, that true nobility of character and self-respect, which enabled him to bear himself with lofty dignity in the presence of the proudest, and at the same time, impelled him to respect the rights and sympathies with the sufferings of the humblest.

REV. HENRY E. HARRINGTON.

UNION AND LIBERTY.

Flag of the heroes who left us their glory,
Borne through their battle-fields thunder and flame,
Blazoned in song and illumined in story,
Wave o'er us all who inherit their fame!
    Up with our banner bright,
    Sprinkled with starry light,
Spread its fair emblems from mountain to shore,
    While through the sounding sky
    Loud rings the Nation's cry,—
Union and Liberty! One evermore.

Light of our firmament, guide of our nation,
Pride of her children, honored afar,
Let the wide beams of thy full constellation
Scatter each cloud that would darken a star.
    Up with our banner bright, etc.

Empire unsceptered! what foe shall assail thee,
Bearing the standard of Liberty's van?
Think not the God of thy fathers shall fail thee,
Shining with men for the birthright of man!
    Up with our banner bright, etc.

Yet, if by madness and treachery blighted,
Dawns the dark hour when sword thou must draw,
Then with the arms of thy millions united,
Smite the bold traitors of Freedom and Law!
    Up with our banner bright, etc.

Lord of the Universe! shield us and guide us,
Trusting us always through shadow and sun!
Thou hast united us, who shall divide us?
Keep us, oh keep us the many in one!
    Up with our banner bright,
    Sprinkled with starry light,
Spread its fair emblems from mountain to shore,
    While through the sounding sky
    Loud rings the Nation's cry,—
Union and Liberty! One Evermore!

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Washington's birthday! day dear to every American heart! What school boy or girl, what man or woman, does not gladly hold in remembrance the twenty-second day of February? It brings to us the thought of one whose motto might have been, *Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*, gentle in manner but resolute in deed! With what feelings of pride we refer to him as the Father of his Country—our Country—America, "the land of the free and the home of the brave!" All over the vast universe to-day shall the name of Washington be spoken with love and reverence, and grateful hearts shall sing his praises and read again and again the story of his grand achievements. Oh, you who are longing to be something and to do something in the world, reflect upon the character of Washington! Emulate his nobility of mind, his fixedness of purpose, his heroism and valor. Such attributes will fit you for responsibility and trust; prepare yourself for a place, and God will prepare a place for you.

EDWARD EVERETT.

His mind was great and powerful without being of the very first order; his penetration strong, though not so acute as that of a Newton, a Bacon or a Locke; and as far as he saw, no judgment was ever sounder. It was slow in operation, being little aided by imagination or invention, but sure in conclusion. His integ-

rity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known; no motives of interest or consanguinity or friendship or hatred being able to bias his decision. He was indeed in every sense of the word, a wise, a good, and a great man.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

"O name forever to thy country dear!
Still wreath'd with pride, "still uttered with a tear!"
Thou that could'st rouse a nation's host to arms,
Could'st calm the spreading tumult of alarms,
Of civil discord, awe the threatening force
And check even Anarchy's licentious course!
Long as exalted worth commands applause,
Long as the virtuous bow to virtue's laws,
Long as thy reverence and honor join'd,
Long as the hero's glory warms the mind,
Long as the flame of gratitude shall burn,
Or human tears bedew the patriot's urn,
Thy sound shall dwell on each Columbian tongue,
And live lamented in elegiac song!
Till some bold bard, inspired with Delphic rage!
Shall with thy lustres fire his epic page!

In Fate's vast chronicle of future time
The mystic mirror of events sublime
Where deeds of virtue gild each pregnant page
And some grand epoch marks each coming age.

Where germs of future history strike the eye
And empires' rise and fall in embrio lie,
Though statesmen, heroes, sages, chiefs abound
Yet none of worth like Washington's are found!
In him concentered every power of mind,
In him was every god-like virtue join'd.
To him I gave to govern by his word,
And guard Columbia's millions with his sword!
Each character beside some spot betrays
While his alone shines one unclouded blaze.

Rear to his name a monument sublime!
Bid art and genius all their powers bestow,
And let the pile with life and grandeur glow.
High on the top let Fame with trumpet's sound,
Announce his god-like deeds to worlds around!
Let Pallas lead her hero to the field,
In wisdom's train, and cover with her shield.
A sword present to dazzle from afar
And flash bright terrors through the ranks of war.
With port august let oak-wreath'd Freedom stand
And hail him father of the chosen land;
With laurels deck him, with due honors greet,
And crowns and scepters place beneath his feet;
Let Peace, her olive blooming like the morn,
And kindred Plenty with her teeming horn,
With Commerce, child and regent of the main,
While arts and agriculture join the train,

Rear a sad altar, bend around his urn,
And to their guardian, grateful incense burn!

Let History calm, in thoughtful mood reclin'd
Record his actions to enrich mankind
And Poesy divine his deeds rehearse
In all the energy of epic verse!
To future ages there let Mercy own
He never from her bosom forc'd a groan;
Here let a statesman, there a reverend sage
To mark and emulate his steps engage,
Columbia widow'd, count his virtues o'er,
Around his tomb her pearly sorrows pour,
And mild Religion of celestial mien
Point to her patron's place, in realms unseen!
Then stamp in gold the monument above
The mournful tribute of a nation's love!
But not alone in scenes where glory fir'd,
He mov'd, no less, in civic walks admir'd!
Though long a warrior, choice of human blood,
As Brutus noble, and as Titus good!
To all that formed the hero of the age,
He joined the patriot and the peaceful sage,
The statesman powerful and the ruler just,
No less illustrious than the chief august;
And to condense his characters in one,
The God-like Father of his Country shone!"

(*Copied from old Magazine.*)

No arch nor column, in courtly English or courtlier Latin, sets forth the deeds and the worth of the Father of his Country; he needs them not; the unwritten benediction of millions cover all the walls of Mt. Vernon. No gilded dome swells from the lowly roof to catch the morning or evening beam; but the love and gratitude of united America settle upon it in one eternal sunshine. EDWARD EVERETT.

His private life was as far from stain as his public life was surpassingly admirable. They who cherish the memory of greatness that had no alliance with goodness, may well be rejoiced that nothing remains of it but the record of the actions that have won for it its name.

They may well rejoice at the silence of history, fearful that its further story, had it one to tell, would mar the fascinating and deceptive illusion. But the lovers of Washington could gain from every event of his life whether little or great, only fresh evidences of his exalted purity, his ennobling sense of right, his disinterested self-sacrifice. HENRY F. HARRINGTON.

"His worth! his death whose heaven directed hand
From fierce oppression sav'd an infant land,
Whose wisdom governed and whose virtues grac'd
An empire reared amid a trackless waste,

Whose Godlike deeds were long the warrior's guide,
The statesman's pattern and the patriot's pride,
The tyrant's dread, the polestar of the sage,
The poet's theme and glory of the age,
Whose loss Columbia's grateful millions mourn,
While distant nations kindred griefs return,
I sing!"—

An Elegiac Poem, on the death of General Washington.

The time had now arrived when Washington was to resign his public station. In February the votes had been counted in Congress, and it was found that John Adams was elected President. In the speech delivered by the President on taking the oath of office, that able statesman thus spoke of his predecessor:

"Such is the amiable and interesting system of government under the administration of a citizen who by a long course of great actions regulated by prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude, conducting a people inspired with the same ardent patriotism and love of liberty to independence and peace, to increasing wealth and unexampled prosperity, has merited the gratitude of his fellow-citizens, commanded the highest praises of foreign nations and secured immortal glory with posterity.

His name may be still a rampart against all open or secret enemies of his country's peace."

The hero, the sage and the patriot of America—the man on whom in times of danger every eye was turned and all hopes were placed, lives now in his own great actions, and in the hearts of an affectionate people. More than any other individual as much as to one individual was possible, has he contributed to found this, our Empire, and to give to the western world its independence and its freedom. We have seen him convert the sword into the ploughshare, and voluntarily sink the soldier into the citizen. We have seen him the chief of those patriots who formed for us a constitution. However the public confidence may change and the public affection fluctuate with respect to others, yet with respect to him they have in war and in peace, in public and in private life, been as steady as his own firm mind and as constant as his own exalted virtues.

JOHN MARSHALL.

Hail, brightest banner that floats on the gale,
Flag of the country of Washington, hail!
Red are thy stripes with the blood of the brave;
Bright are thy stars as the sun on the wave;
Wrapt in thy folds are the hopes of the free.
Banner of Washington—! blessings on thee!

Traitors shall perish and treason shall fail;
Kingdoms and thrones in thy glory grow pale!

Thou shalt live on, and thy people shall own
Loyalty's sweet, when each heart is thy throne;
Union and Freedom thine heritage be.
Country of Washington—! blessings on thee!

WILLIAM S. ROBINSON.*

Point of that pyramid whose solid base
Rests firmly founded on a nation's trust,
Which, while the gorgeous palace sinks in dust,
Shall stand sublime, and fill its ample space.

Elected chief of freemen! greater far
Than kings whose glittering parts are fixed by birth—
Nam'd by thy country's voice for long try'd worth,
Her crown in peace, as once her shield in war!

Design, Washington, to hear a British lyre,
That ardent greets thee with applausive lays,
And to the patriot hero homage pays.

O, would the muse immortal strains inspire,
That high beyond all Greek and Roman fame,
Might soar to times unborn, thy purer, nobler name!

DOCTOR AIKIN.†

* American Journalist, 1818–1876.

† Dr. John Aikin—English biographer and miscellaneous writer, 1747–1822.

Learning to estimate justly all human glory, and matured by experience; accustomed to lofty conceptions, and moving always in the important spheres of life; impressed with a sense that he derived all from God and that all should be devoted to His service, his deportment was noble, equally removed from the supercilious and the vain. Some men have been great at one time and despicable at another; some men have performed a single action, and never rose to the like again, but to Washington great actions seemed common. Some men have appeared great at the head of armies or when surrounded by the trappings of power, and little when stripped of these, and alone; some men have withstood the storms of adversity and been melted by the sunshine of prosperity; some men have possessed splendid public talents, and disgraced these by sordid private vices, but it is difficult to determine when and where Washington shone the brightest. It can only be said that he was uniformly great.

WILLIAM LINN.

Had he, a mortal, the failings attached to man?—Was he the slave of avarice? No. Wealth was an object too mean for his regard, and yet economy presided over his domestic concerns; for his mind was too lofty to brook independence. Was he ambitious? No. His spirit soared beyond ambition's reach. He

saw a crown high above all human grandeur. He sought, he gained, and wore that crown. But he had indeed one frailty—the weakness of great minds. He was fond of fame, and had reared a colossal reputation. It stood on the rock of his virtue. This was dear to his heart. There was but one thing dearer. He loved glory, but still more he loved his country. That was the master passion, and with resistless might it ruled his every thought, and word and deed.

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

His virtues and example are an invaluable legacy to his country, to Europe, and to the world. His counsels are engraven on the table of our hearts—his deeds are written with a pen of iron and with the point of a diamond. His fame is a sea without a shore. His counsels—his deeds and his fame will live forever.

DAVID RAMSEY.*

Washington! Father and deliverer of his country! What sweetness dwells in this name—a name sounded by million-tongued fame through her golden trumpet into distant worlds. The sooty African that traverses Niger's sandy waste—the Algerine desperate in fight—the half-lived Laplander—the Arabian, swift as the

* American physician and historian, 1749–1815.

5768

wind—the Scythian—the inoffensive Bramins,—have all heard it, and when mentioned, revere it.

WILLIAM CLARK FRAZER.

Three times Washington's character saved the country; once by keeping up the courage of the nation till the Revolutionary War was ended; then by uniting the nation in the acceptance of the Federal Constitution; thirdly by saving it from being swept away into anarchy and civil war during the immense excitement of the French Revolution. Such was the gift of Washington, a gift of God to the nation, as far beyond any other of God's gifts as virtue is more than genius, as character is more than intellect, as wise conduct is better than outward prosperity.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

Patriots of America—and military officers of every name, view the great example that is set before you. Emulate the virtues of Washington, and in due time your heads will also be adorned with the wreath of honor. Here you learn what is true and unfading glory. You will see that it is not the man who is led on by the blind impulse of ambition; who rushes into the midst of embattled hosts merely to show his contempt of death; or who wastes fair cities or depopulates rich provinces,—to spread far the terrors of his

name—who is admired and praised as the true hero and friend of mankind;—but the man, who, in obedience to the public voice, appears in arms for the salvation of his country, shuns no perils in a just cause, endeavors to alleviate instead of increase the calamities of war, and whose aim is to strengthen and adorn the temple of liberty, as resting on the immovable basis of virtue and religion? The voice of justice and the voice of suffering humanity forbid us to bestow the palm of true valor on the mad exploits of the destroyers of mankind.

Washington's delight was to save, not to destroy. His greatest glory is that with small armies and the loss of few lives—compared with the wastes of other wars—he made his country free and happy.

ROBERT DAVIDSON.*

Hail, matchless mortal, heaven's distinguished care!
Epitome of virtues great and rare!
Resplendent model of majestic mind!
Where talents high their confluent luster join'd!
Sure nature form'd thee of superior dust,
As Cæsar generous, as Cato just!
A soul, in war's emergence form'd to rule,
As Cyrus provident, as Fabius cool!

* A Presbyterian clergyman, 1808–1876.

When honor summon'd, as Achilles warm,
As Scipio prompt, as Cincinnatus firm!
When danger frown'd, and battle shook the skies,
As Hector daring, as Ulysses wise!

CHARLES CALDWELL.

Brave without temerity, laborious without ambition, generous without prodigality, noble without pride, virtuous without severity—Washington seems always to have confined himself within those limits where the virtues, by clothing themselves in more lively but more changeable and doubtful colors, may be mistaken for faults. Inspiring respect, he inspires confidence, and his smile is always the smile of benevolence.

MARQUIS CHASTELLUX.

Oh Washington! thou hero, patriot, sage!
Friend of all climes and pride of every age!
Were thine the laurels every soil could raise,
The mighty harvest were penurious praise.
Well may our realms, thy fabian wisdom boast;
Thy prudence sav'd, what bravery lost,
Yet hadst thou, by heaven's severer fates,
Like Sparta's hero at the Grecian straits,
Been doom'd to meet in arms, a world of foes,
Whom skill could not defeat, nor walls oppose.

* Marquis Chastellux, French officer and writer, 1734–1788.

Then had thy breast, by danger ne'er subdued,
The mighty buckler of thy country, stood;
Proud of its wounds, each piercing spear would bless,
Which left Columbia's foes one javelin less;
Nor felt one pang—but, in the glorious deed,
Thy little band of heroes too, must bleed;
Nor throbb'd one fear—but, that some poison'd dart
Thy breast might pass, and reach thy country's heart.

WILLIAM PAINE.

O Time! Empires and Kingdoms are thy sport. The bewildered traveler of the desert, the prideful monarch of the throne; conquerors who have led the world in chains; philosophers who have scanned the heavens and walked among the stars; virtue's sacred train; all, all have been numbered among thy trophies; yet the greatest of thy spoils is the "Father of our Country." But, O Time, his memory will mock thy ravages: it will live in immortal bloom, "when death itself shall die."

REV. ROSWELL MESSENGER.

God has given this nation many precious gifts; but the chief gift of all, the one, we may say, which has added something to every other one is the gift of this great soldier, this great statesman, this great and good

man, this greatest of all Americans, past, present—past, if not to come. Our heritage from him is illustrious above all others.—*Characterization of Washington.*

SAMUEL ELIOT.

America has had no nobler, no greater, no truer man. Every land has honored him, every race has sung his praise. As the years go by his real worth becomes more apparent and needs none of the overwrought little stories that have so long been told to boys and girls, to strengthen his character or give point to his record. The true story of his life is fine enough and full enough to interest, to inspire and to help, without adding the things that would make a prude of the boy and a god of the man who was always a truth-teller, truth-liver, and truth-doer, both as boy and man.

ELBRIDGE S. BROOKS.

Great without pomp, without ambition brave,
Proud, not to conquer fellow-men, but save;
Friend to the weak, a foe to none but those
Who plan their greatness on their brethren's woes;
Aw'd by no titles—undefil'd by lust—
Free without faction—obstinately just;

Warm'd by religion's sacred, genuine ray,
That points to future bliss the unerring way;
Yet ne'er control'd by superstition's laws,
That worst of tryants in the noblest cause.

From a London Newspaper.

Such a life as Washington's can never derive honor from the circumstances of birth and education, though it throws back a luster upon both. With an inquisitive mind that always profited by the lights of others, and was unclouded by passions of its own, he acquired a maturity of judgment, rare in age, unparalleled in youth.

FISHER AMES.*

The silver trump of fame,
His glory will proclaim,
    Till time is done.
Genius with taste refin'd,
Courage with coolness join'd,
'Bove all, an honest mind,
    Has Washington.

Those mighty chiefs of old,
Cæsars and heroes bold,
    Who realms have won;

*American orator and statesman, 1758–1808.

Smit by his higher blaze,
Hide their diminished rays,
And yield the palm of praise,
To Washington.

New York Gazetteer, Feb. 11, 1784.

Extract from a Translation of a Dutch Ode to Washington. Dr. O'Calla has made the literal translation. Alfred B. Street of Albany, the poetical translation.

No lofty monument thy greatness needs;
The freedom which America from thee
Received, and happiness of thy great deeds
The everlasting monument shall be.

Thy proud foot trampled on the British chain;
But O! beware lest some false foreign power,
Rivet his fetters on thy land again,
For despots smile while waiting for their hour.

How deeply touched, Humanity! your soul,
When you beheld the grateful tears that rained
Down a glad Nation's cheek, as Freedom's goal
Was by that Nation's might in triumph gained.

O, Fatherland, whoever loves thy fame,
Sighing shall mourn thy glory lost, when won;
Freedom, when leaving thee, lit up her flame
Within the patriot heart of Washington.

When time shall sink in everlasting gloom,
And Death with Time shall cease for evermore ;
When the dead burst the cerements of the tomb,
As the last trumpet breaks in thunder o'er ;

Then as it feels its pulses once more free,
Let every heart, Columbia claims as son,
Beat first for God, but let its next throb be
For the eternal bliss of Washington.

The name of Washington is inseparably linked with a memorable epoch. He adorned this epoch by his talent and the nobility of his character and with virtues that even envy dared not assail. History offers few examples of such renown. Great from the outset of his career, patriotic before his country had become a nation, brilliant and universal despite the passions and political resentments that would have gladly checked his career, his fame is to-day impenetrable—fortune having consecrated his claim to greatness, while the prosperity of a people destined for grand achievements, is the best evidence of a fame ever to increase.

TALLEYRAND,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, France.

The character of Washington! Who can delineate it worthily? Modest, disinterested, generous, just, of clean hands and a pure heart, self-denying and self-

sacrificing, seeking nothing for himself, declining all remuneration beyond the reimbursements of his outlays, scrupulous to a farthing in keeping his accounts, of spotless integrity, scorning gifts, charitable to the needy, forgiving injuries and injustices, brave, fearless, heroic, with a prudence ever governing his impulses, a wisdom ever guiding his valor, true to his friends, true to his country, true to himself, fearing God, no stranger to private devotion or public worship, but ever recognizing a divine aid and direction in all that he accomplished. His magnetism was that of merit, superior, surpassing merit; the merit of spotless integrity, of recognized ability, and of unwearied willingness to spend and be spent in the service of his country?

ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

One of the best of modern Americans, James Russell Lowell, who was born on the same day of the month as Washington, February twenty-second, 1819, wrote shortly before his death, to a schoolgirl whose class proposed noticing his own birthday: "Whatever else you do on the twenty-second of Februaay, recollect, first of all, that on that day a really great man was born, and do not fail to warm your hearts with the memory of his service, and to brace your minds with the contemplation of his character. The rest of us must wait uncovered till he be served."

ELBRIDGE S. BROOKS.

Such a chief magistrate as Washington appears like a pole star in a clear sky to direct the skilful statesman. His presidency will form an epoch and be distinguished as the Age Of Washington. Like the milky way it whitens along its alloted portion of the hemisphere. The latest generations of men will survey through the telescope of history, the space where so many virtues blend their rays, and delight to separate them into groups and distinct virtues. As the best illustration of them, the living monument to which the first of Patriots would have chosen to consign his fame, it is my earnest prayer to heaven that our country may subsist even to that late day, in the plenitude of its liberty and happiness, and mingle its mild glory with Washington's.

FISHER AMES.

Undaunted, true to himself and to duty, devoted with all his powers to the good of his country, the character of General Washington never appears more truly great than during those darkest months of his life—the winter at Valley Forge.

MISS COOPER.

The vast interest in whatever relates to the glorious name of Washington gives rise to every description of eulogy and memorial; indeed genius and patriotism

are constantly stimulated to the highest degree of emulation in portraying the sublime grandeur of his mind and heart, as well as his majestic form and noble features.

WILLIAM J. HUBBARD.

"And who was George Washington that he should be thus remembered? He was the leader of our Revolutionary armies; he was the first President of these United States. But was it because he filled those great offices, because he was general or chief magistrate that he is thus remembered? Can a man not be supreme civil or military officer of a nation and yet be forgotten, or sometime only remembered to be despised? Will a man's station—will a man's genius, will a man's success have in it any necessary magic to sanctify him to the grateful revering recollection of age and of endless populations who see him figure only on the chronicler's page? No, thank God, it is the greatest eulogy on the human heart itself, that not genius or success or office, but character wins the crown of its unmeasured approval and unquenchable love."

"It is because Washington, the providential captain of our hosts and head of our counsels, was a good man; that he was pure, patriotic, and disinterested; that in circumstances irresistibly exciting all the ambition of the human soul, he was ambitious for his country and not for himself; that in circumstances of

the greatest darkness and discouragement, he did not despair of the just cause; that he took the inspiration that supported and moved him, not from probabilities and earthly prudence which many a time could not hold up one moment in his way, but from right and from the heavens; that he received his sword and his chair as from God, and rendered them back to God, as the sculptor has well represented, when the purposes for which he wielded the one and sat in the other were accomplished:—it is for this solemn, sublime unspotted quality of his soul, that the somewhat grave and unpretending man that never talked of his fidelity and could only give stammering thanks to the representatives of his country for their appreciation of it, nor was fond of making any demonstration even of his affection, has secured the attachment of a continent, a sort of personal loyalty of the whole Anglo-Saxon race, and the admiration of the civilized world. This and no executive order sets up his statue in the public hall. This fires the gun, pulls the rope of the bell, inspires and speaks the oration, makes his grave mightier than the living presence of weaker and less worthy men that come after him, and brings back to earth the very soul translated to its reward."

WASHINGTON AT TRENTON.

THE BATTLE MONUMENT, OCTOBER 19, 1893.

Since ancient Time began
  Ever on some great soul God laid an infinite burden
The weight of all this world, the hopes of man.
  Conflict and pain, and fame immortal are his guerdon!

And this the unfaltering token
  Of him, the Deliverer—what though tempests beat,
Though all else fail, though bravest ranks be broken,
  He stands unscared, alone, nor ever knows defeat.

Such was that man of men;
  And if are praised all virtues, every fame
Most noble, highest, purest—then, ah! then,
  Upleaps in every heart the name none need to name.

Ye who defeated, 'whelmed,
  Betray the sacred cause, let go the trust;
Sleep, weary, while the vessel drifts unhelmed;
  Here see in triumph rise the hero from the dust.

All ye who fight forlorn
  'Gainst fate and failure; ye who proudly cope
With evil high enthroned; all ye who scorn
  Life from Dishonor's hand, here take new heart of hope.

Here know how Victory borrows
  For the brave soul a front as of disaster,
And in the bannered East what glorious morrows
  For all the blackness of the night speed surer, faster.

Know by this pillared sign
  For what brief while the powers of earth and hell
Can war against the spirit of truth divine,
  Or can against the heroic heart of man prevail.

RICHARD WATSON GILDER.

The soul of Washington was one of the grandest of all ages that takes its equal rank with Greek and Roman and Hebrew names of renown for humane and prime worth, names that seem written not in our poor records, but on the sky's arch—names in the broad sunshine of whose moral glory, spreading through the world all the little fires which men have made with the kindling of words from abstract conceptions,—go out. For however otherwise a man may be distinguished--and unless there be in him a spirit of love,

devotion and self-sacrifice, we feel he lacks the very pith and beauty of manhood; and though he may be a great performer with his pen as one plays well on a musical instrument, a Great Being he is not.

Christian Examiner, Vol. 60

"O spirit! sent to teach us love of country and devotion to human weal, return indeed; Thy work in thy own day and generation was well done, but thou art needed sorely still. Stay not wholly in heaven; but come back commissioned by God to inspire thy successors, and the citizens of land thou didst so love, with thy own justice, religious simplicity and patriotic zeal."

The following letter and verses were written by the famous Phillis Wheatley, the African poetess, and presented to his Excellency, General Washington.

SIR,

I have taken the freedom to address your Excellency in the enclosed poem, and entreat your acceptance, though I am not insensible of its inaccuracies. Your being appointed by the Grand Continental Congress to be Generalissimo of the armies of North America, together with the fame of your virtues, excites sensations not easy to suppress. Your generosity, therefore, I presume, will pardon the attempt.

Wishing your Excellency all possible success in the great cause you are so generously engaged in,

I am,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

PHILLIS WHEATLEY.

PROVIDENCE, October 26, 1775.

His Excellency, GENERAL WASHINGTON.

It is interesting to read General Washington's response to Phillis Wheatley.

CAMBRIDGE, 28 February, 1776.

MISS PHILLIS,

Your favor of the 26th of October did not reach my hand till the middle of December. Time enough you will say, to have given an answer ere this. Granted. But a variety of important occurrences continually interposing to distract the mind and withdraw the attention I hope will apologize for the delay, and plead my excuse for the seeming but not real neglect. I thank you most sincerely for your polite notice of me, in the elegant lines you enclosed; and however undeserving I may be of such encomium and panegyric, the style and manner exhibit a striking proof of your poetical talents, in honor of which, and as a tribute justly due you, I would have published the poem, had I not been apprehensive that, while I only meant to give the world this new instance of your genius, I

might have incurred the imputation of vanity. This and nothing else, determined me not to give it place in the public prints.

If you should ever come to Cambridge, or near head-quarters, I shall be happy to see a person so favored by the Muses, and to whom nature has been so liberal and beneficent in her dispensations.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient humble servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Celestial choir! enthron'd in realms of light,
Columbia's scenes of glorious toils I write.
While freedom's cause her anxious breast alarms,
She flashes dreadful in refulgent arms.
See mother earth her offspring's fate bemoan,
And nations gaze at scenes before unknown.
See the bright beams of heaven's revolving light
Involved in sorrows and the veil of night!
The goddess comes, she moves divinely fair,
Olive and laurel binds her golden hair:
Wherever shines this native of the skies,
Unnumber'd charms and recent graces rise.
Muse! bow propitious while my pen relates
How pour her armies through a thousand gates;
As when Eolus heaven's fair face deforms,
Enwrapp'd in tempest and a night of storms;

Astonish'd ocean feels the wild uproar,
The refulgent surges beat the sounding shore;
Or thick as leaves in Autumn's golden reign,
Such, and so many, moves the Warrior's train.
In bright array they seek the work of war,
Where high unfurl'd the ensign waves in air.
Shall I to Washington their praise recite?
Enough thou know'st them in the field of fight,
Thee first in place and honors,—we demand
The grace and glory of thy martial land.
Fam'd for thy valor, for thy virtues more,
Hear every tongue thy guardian aid implore!
One century scarce performed its destin'd round,
When Gallic powers Columbia's fury found;
And so may you, whoever dares disgrace
The land of freedom's heaven-defended race:
Fix'd are the eyes of nations on the scales,
For in their hopes Columbia's arm prevails.
Anon Britannia droops the pensive head,
While round increase the rising hills of dead.
Ah! cruel blindness to Columbia's state!
Lament thy thirst of boundless power too late.
Proceed, great chief, with virtues on thy side,
Thy ev'ry action let the goddess guide.
A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine,
With gold unfading, Washington, be thine.*

* "Phillis Wheatley was born in Africa, and was brought to Boston in a slave ship in 1761. She was purchased by Mr. Wheatley, but she

Extracts from "Under the Old Elm." Poem read at Cambridge on the Hundredth Anniversary of Washington's Taking Command of the American Army, 3d July, 1775.

You who hold dear this self-conceived ideal,
Whose faith and works alone can make it real,
Bring all your fairest gifts to deck her shrine
Who lifts our lives away from Thine and Mine
And feeds the lamp of manhood more divine
With fragrant oils of quenchless constancy.
When all have done their utmost, surely he
Hath given the best who gives a character
Erect and constant, which nor any shock
Of loosened elements, nor the forceful sea
Of flowing or of ebbing fates, can stir
From its very depths in the living rock
Of ancient manhood's sweet security:
And this he gave, serenely far from pride
As baseness, boon with prosperous stars allied,
Part of that nobler seed shall in our loins abide.

soon discovered qualities so interesting and peculiar that she was treated more as an inmate of the family than as a slave.

Her taste inclined to poetry; she read the best authors. The attention of the community was turned to her and she was visited and noticed by families of the first character.

In 1773 when nineteen years of age a volume of her poems was published in London. In 1778 she married John Peters a man of her own color. She died in Boston in 1784, aged thirty-one years."

What figure more immovably august
Than that grave strength so patient and so pure,
Calm in good fortune, when it wavered, sure,
That mind serene, impenetrably just,
Modelled on classic lines so simple they endure?
That soul so softly radiant and so white
The track it left seems less of fire than of light,
Cold but to such as love distemperature?
And if pure light, as some deem, be the force
That drives rejoicing planets on their course,
Why for his power benign seek an impurer source?
His was the true enthusiasm that burns long,
Domestically bright,
Fed from itself and shy of human sight,
The hidden force that makes a lifetime strong,
And not the short-lived fuel of a song.

Soldier and statesman, rarest unison;
High-poised example of great duties done
Simply as breathing, a world's honors worn
As life's indifferent gifts to all men born;
Dumb for himself, unless it were to God,
But for his barefoot soldiers eloquent,
Tramping the snow to coral where they trod,
Held by his awe in hollow-eyed content;
Modest, yet firm as Nature's self; unblamed
Save by the men his nobler temper shamed;
Never seduced through show of present good

By other than unsetting lights to steer
New-trimmed in Heaven, nor than his steadfast mood
More steadfast, far from rashness as from fear;
Rigid, but with himself first, grasping still
In swerveless poise the wave-beat helm of will;
Not honored then or now because he wooed
The popular voice, but that he still withstood;
Broad-minded, higher-souled, there is but one
Who was all this and ours, and all men's,—
Washington.

Minds strong by fits, irregularly great,
That flash and darken like revolving lights,
Catch more the vulgar eye unschooled to wait
On the long curve of patient days and nights
Rounding a whole life to the circle fair
Of orbed fulfilment; and this balanced soul,
So simple in its grandeur, coldly bare
Of draperies theatric, standing there
In perfect symmetry of self-control,
Seems not so great at first, but greater grows
Still as we look, and by experience learn
How grand this quiet is, how nobly stern
The discipline that wrought through lifeless throes
The energetic passion of repose.

Virginia gave us this imperial man
Cast in the massive mold

Of those high-statured ages old
Which into grander forms our mortal metal ran;
She gave us this unblemished gentleman:
What shall we give her back but love and praise
As in the dear old unestrangëd days
Before the inevitable wrong began?
Mother of States and undiminished men,
Thou gavest us a country, giving him,
And we owe alway that we owed thee then:
The boon thou wouldst have snatched from us again
Shines as before with no abatement dim.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

"It will be the duty of the historian and the sage of all nations," writes the eminent British statesman, Lord Brougham, "to let no occasion pass of commemorating this illustrious man; and until time shall be no more, will a test of the progress which our race has made in wisdom and virtue, be derived from the veneration paid to the immortal name of Washington."

The character of Washington may want some of those poetical elements, but it possessed fewer inequalities and a rarer union of virtues than perhaps ever fell to the lot of any other man. Prudence, firmness, sagacity, moderation, an overruling judgment, an immovable justice, courage that never faltered, patience that never

wearied, truth that disdained all artifice, magnanimity without alloy. It seems as if Providence had endowed him in a pre-eminent degree with the qualities requisite to fit him for the high destiny he was called upon to fulfil.

IRVING and FISKE.

The fame of Washington stands apart from every other in history, shining with a truer luster and a more benignant glory. With us his memory remains a national property, where all sympathies throughout our widely extended and diversified empire meet in unison. Under all dissensions and amid all the storms of party, his precepts and example speak to us from the grave with a paternal appeal; and his name—by all revered, forms a universal brotherhood,—a watchword of our Union.

IRVING and FISKE.

He fought, but not with love of strife; he struck, but to defend;
And ere he turned a people's foe, he sought to be a friend.
He strove to keep his country's right by Reason's gentle word,
And sighed when fell Injustice threw the challenge—sword to sword.
He stood the firm, the calm, the wise, the patriot and sage;
He showed no deep avenging hate, no burst of despot rage;
He stood for Liberty and Truth, and dauntlessly led on
Till shouts of victory gave forth the name of Washington.

ELIZA COOK.

"Think not to transfer to a column or a tablet the tribute which is due from yourselves. Just honor to Washington can only be rendered by observing his precepts and imitating his example. He has built his

own monument. We, and those who came after us, are its appointed, its privileged guardians."

"Oh, what associations are linked in adamant with hat name! Washington, whose sword was never drawn but in the cause of his country, and never sheathed when wielded in his country's cause!"

Success will crown our efforts, if we firmly and resolutely determine to conquer or to die.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Great men of his and other times have been appreciated—many admired by all. But him we love. Him we all love. When the storm of battle lowers darkest and rages highest, the memory of Washington shall move every American arm and cheer every American heart.

RUFUS CHOATE.

True friendship is a plant of slow growth.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Let Freedom each year bring
Chaplets as fresh as spring
To deck her son!
While Freedom's angels stand
Guard o'er that flag and land,

Saved by the mighty hand
Of Washington.

CHARLES S. DAVIS.

Diffidence in an officer is a good mark, because he will always endeavor to bring himself to what he considers to be the full line of his duty.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"His courage, whether in battle or in council, was as perfect as might be expected from his pure and steady temper of soul."

Then from his patriot tongue of flame
The startling words of Freedom came.
The stirring sentences he spake
Compelled the heart to glow or quake.
And rising on the theme's broad wing,
And grasping in his nervous hand
The imaginary battle-brand,
In face of death he dared to fling
Defiance to a tyrant king.

THOMAS BUCHANAN READ.

Our First and Best—his ashes lie
Beneath his own Virginian sky.
Forgive, forget, oh! true and just and brave,
The storm that swept above thy sacred grave.

WHITTIER.

"The cause of liberty and virtue is confined to no continent or climate. It comprehends within its capacious limits, the wise and good however dispersed and separated in space or distance.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

O Washington, dearest and best of our race,
Thy deeds through the night-cloud of ages shall lighten!
Thy name on his banner the soldier shall trace,
To hallow his death or his triumphs to brighten.

CHARLES SPRAGUE.

I would therefore earnestly recommend in every path of duty, willingness to undertake and intrepid resolution to execute.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Nothing but harmony, honest industry and frugality are necessary to make us a great nation.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

His excellency is a great and good man. I feel the highest degree of respect for him. I wish him immortal honor.

GENERAL GREENE.

I never knew Washington to utter a wish or drop an expression that did not tend to the good of his country.

ONE OF HIS AIDES.

Washington was not so eminent for any one quality of greatness and worth as for the union of those great, amiable, and good qualities which are very rarely combined in the same character.

AARON BANCROFT.

Let us then rely on the goodness of our cause, and the aid of the Supreme Being, in whose hands victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions.—*From Washington's Address to the American Army.*

For tho' the years, their golden round
O'er all the lavish region roll,
And realm on realm, from pole to pole,
In one beneath thy Stars be bound,
The far-off centuries as they flow,
No whiter name than this shall know!

FRANCIS PALGRAVE.

I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

George Washington will always receive the love and reverence of men, because they see embodied in him the noblest possibilities of humanity.

HENRY CABOT LODGE.

Be courteous to all, but intimate with few.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

If a man cannot act in all respects as he could wish, he must do what appears best, under the circumstances he is in.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"We are gathered here this morning
To celebrate the day,
That gave to us brave Washington,
The man whose name will stay
In our own loving, grateful memory,
Till life itself is o'er,
For he gained for us our liberty,
And no man could do more.
So reverently and thankfully,
We all proclaim his name,
And every true American
Will gladly do the same."

Thanks to God his glory is consummated. Washington yet lives on earth in his spotless example.

JOHN MARSHALL.

Think before you speak; pronounce not imperfectly; nor bring out your words too hastily, but orderly and distinctly.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Speak not evil of the absent, for it is unjust.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

O spirit of that early day,
So pure and strong and true,
Be with us in the narrow way
Our faithful fathers knew.

WHITTIER.

Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.—*From George Washington's Farewell Address.*

Dear little boys, whose birthday comes
With Washington's to-day,
You may not be the president
(Although, perhaps, you may);
But each who does the best he can
May be, like him, a noble man.

Youth's Companion.

Undertake not what you cannot perform, but be careful to keep your promise.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Eighty years have passed and more,
Since under the brave old tree,
Our fathers gathered in arms and swore
They would follow the sign their banners bore,
And fight till the land was free.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

My first wish is to see the whole world in peace and the inhabitants of it one band of brothers, showing who should contribute more to the happiness of mankind.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The cause of liberty and virtue is confined to no continent or climate. It comprehends within its capacious limits the wise and good, however dispersed and separated in space or distance.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

The cause of America, and of liberty, is the cause of every virtuous American citizen.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Illustrious warrior! on the immortal base,
By freedom rear'd, thy envied name shall stand;
And fame, by truth inspir'd, shall fondly trace
Thee, pride and guardian of thy native land.

From a London Newspaper.

His example is complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue to magistrates, citizens and men, not only in the present age, but in future generations as long as our history shall be read.

JOHN ADAMS.

"He was the very first in peace,
The very first in war:
His influence can never cease,
'Tis felt both near and far.

So noble, true and brave a man
Is never really dead!
For we honor him as best we can,
Pour blessings o'er his head.

And in our tenderest memory
We hold him very dear;
Who fought for this, our country,
Through many a troubled year."

I never say anything of a man that I have the smallest scruple of saying to him.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Nothing will hasten peace more than to be in a condition for war.

GEORGE WASHINOTON.

"Only a man of finest bent,
Hero of battles fought and won,
Surveyor, General, President,
Who served his country and died content—
The patriot Washington."
Proceed, great chief, with virtue on thy side,
Thy ev'ry action let the goddess guide.
A crown, a mansion, and a throne that shine.
With gold unfading, Washington, be thine.

From a Pennsylvania Magazine.

The best and only safe road to honor, glory and true dignity, is justice.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

There is no experience equal to that which is bought.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Washington's Farewell Address ranks amongst the sacred documents of American history.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

Washington was incapable of fear, meeting personal dangers with the calmest unconcern.

JEFFERSON.

Washington was prominent though silent.

RANDOLPH.

Among individuals, the most certain way to make a man your enemy is to tell him you esteem him such.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Time only can eradicate and overcome customs and prejudices of long standing, they must be got the better of by slow and gradual advances.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

May our country never want props to support the glorious fabric.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Never did I behold so superb a man.

LAFAYETTE.

We must take human nature as we find it; perfection falls not to the share of mortals.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

From thinking proceeds speaking; thence to acting is often but a single step.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Webster has said, America has furnished to the world the character of Washington; if our American institutions had done nothing else, that alone would have entitled them to the respect of mankind.

Do not conceive that fine clothes make fine men more than fine feathers make fine birds,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Let us as a nation be just; let us fulfil the public contracts with the same good faith we suppose ourselves bound to perform our private engagements.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Haughty they said he was, at first; severe,
But owned, as all men own, the steady hand
Upon the bridle, patient to command,
Prized as all prize, the justice pure from fear,
And learned to honor first, then love him, then revere.

LOWELL.

First impressions are generally longest remembered.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

There is something charming to me in the conduct of Washington.

JOHN ADAMS.

He is a fine man!

JOHN HANCOCK.

Let us have a government by which our lives, liberties and properties will be secured.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Of all great men, he was the most virtuous and the most fortunate. In this world, God has not higher favors to bestow. GUIZOT.

The lesser evil where there is a choice of them, should always yield to the greater.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

When Washington heard the voice of his country in distress, his obedience was prompt; and though his sacrifices were great, they cost him no effort.

FISHER AMES.

My temper leads me to peace and harmony with all men.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

By the purity of his character and a long series of services to his country, our excellent fellow-citizen, George Washington, is rendered illustrious throughout the world.

JOHN ADAMS.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people is dear to you.—*From George Washington's Farewell Address.*

The man lived for all nations and for all centuries.

TALLEYRAND.

Now is the time for every man to exert himself, and make our country glorious.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Yet those have troops innum'rous as the sands
One soul inspires, one General chief commands.
Find in your train of boasted heroes, one
To match the praise of Godlike Washington.
Thrice happy chief! in whom the virtuous join,
And heaven-taught speaks the man divine.

PHILLIS WHEATLEY.

All his views were upright, all his actions, just.

COLONEL PICKERING.

The most honest man that I believe ever adorned human nature.

TILGHMAN.

His patriotism resembled the blaze of divine benevolence, uniformly benignant, universal in expression, and without diminution.

REV. ROSWELL MESSENGER.

What an honor to a nation to have given birth to such a man; to have his name as a hero, a patriot and a statesman, to adorn the first and brightest pages of her history.

ROBERT DAVIDSON.

To all that form'd the hero of the age,
He join'd the patriot and the peaceful sage,
The statesman powerful and the ruler just,
No less illustrious than the chief august.

CHARLES CALDWELL.

His heart was pure and friendly; his head clear, its counsel deep and lucid. ROSWELL MESSENGER.

"Our Washington wears not borrowed glory."

His patience and perseverance were unexampled.

WILLIAM LYNN.

In him were the courage of a soldier, the fortitude of a hero! GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Let his countrymen teach their children never to forget that the fruits of his labors, and his example are their inheritance. SAMUEL BAYARD.

Young men of America! The early years of Washington will teach you lessons of temperance, of industry and of virtuous ambition. WILLIAM GRIFFITH.

It is much easier at all times to prevent an evil than to rectify mistakes. GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Let your promotion result from your own application and from intrinsic merit, not from the labors of others.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

System in all things should be aimed at ; for in execution it renders everything more easy.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Rise early that by habit it may become familiar, agreeable, healthy and profitable.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

O man of silent mood,
A stranger among strangers then,
How art thou since renowned the Great, the Good.
Familiar as the day in all the homes of men!

LOWELL.

The name of Washington is inseparably linked with a memorable epoch. TALLEYRAND.

The welfare of our country is the great object to which our cares and efforts ought to be directed.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one, if at any time you should happen to fall into error.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To constitute a dispute there must be two parties.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

History offers few examples of such renown.

TALLEYRAND.

A slender acquaintance with the world must convince every man that actions, not words are the true criterion of the attachments of friends; and that the most liberal professions of good-will are very far from being the surest marks of it.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S *Social Maxims.*

There should be no North, no South, no East, no West—but a common country.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

History has hardly a stronger case of an indispensable man. GOLDWIN SMITH.

When there was anything to say Washington could say it so that it stirred all who listened, because they felt that there was a mastering strength behind the words. HENRY CABOT LODGE.

"All American citizens cannot do better than strive to reincarnate the founder of their nation in every generation as it comes."

Magnanimous in youth, glorious through life, great in death, his highest ambition was the happiness of mankind, his noblest victory the conquest of himself.

FITZHUGH LEE.

From Washington's Farewell Address.

The name of America which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism.

Promote as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge.

In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion be enlightened.

Observe good faith and justice toward all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. It will be worthy of a free, enlightened—a great nation—to give mankind the example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence.

I hold the maxim no less in public than in private affairs that honesty is the best policy.

The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government, presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

ANECDOTES AND EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

"When he heard a little boy exclaim as the procession in his honor passed through the streets, 'Why, father, General Washington is only a man.' The illustrious guest paused in his triumphal march, looked with thoughtful interest on the child, and patting him on the head, replied, 'That's all, my little fellow, that's all!'"

Washington, upon being asked to sit for his portrait for an English painter, Robert Edge Pine, replied:

"In for a penny in for a pound" is an old adage. I am so hackneyed to the touches of the painters' pencils that I am now altogether at their beck, and sit like patience on a monument whilst they delineate the features of my face. It is a proof, among many others of what habit and custom may effect. At first I was impatient in the extreme and as restive under the operation as a colt in the saddle. The next time I submitted very reluctantly, but with fewer flounces; now, no dray-horse moves more readily to the drill than I do to the painter's chair."

"Lafayette said, 'At Monmouth I commanded a division, and it may be supposed I was pretty well occupied; still I took time amid the roar and confusion of the conflict, to admire our beloved chief, who, mounted on a splendid charger, rode along the ranks amid the shouts of the soldiers, cheering them by his voice and example, and restoring to our standard the fortunes of the fight. I thought then,' continued Lafayette, 'that never had I beheld so superb a man!'"

"A sculptor was once asked: 'Of what material would you prefer to make Washington's statue?'

"'Of marble,' was the reply; 'of marble as white as his own soul!'"

"Sam Fraunces, the steward of magnificent ideas, who would reply with tears and the exclamation, 'He may kill me if he will, but while he is President, and I have the honor to be his steward, his establishment shall have the best of everything, even the solitary shad of the season, at three dollars the fish, though the master's indignation at the cost might consign the luxury to the servants' hall below!"

Washington though most hospitable was always economical. His steward one day placed before him, a rare, expensive and well cooked fish.

"What fish is this?" asked Washington.

"A shad, sir."

"What was the price?"

"Three dollars, sir."

"Take it away, sir! take it away!" said Washington. "It shall never be said that my house sets such an example of extravagance."

How Washington saved Mrs. Washington the detail of ordering her own clothing.

"'A salmon-colored Tabby of the enclosed pattern with satin flowers to be made in a sack, one cap-handkerchief, tucker and ruffles to be made of brussels lace or point, proper to wear with the above negligée, to cost 20 pounds, one pair of black, and one pair of white Satin Shoes of the smallest, and one black mask.

"Again, Mrs. Washington sends home a green sack to get cleaned or fresh dyed of the same color; made up into a handsome sack again would be her choice; but if the cloth won't afford that, then to be thrown into a genteel night gown.'"

"Washington frequently went ten miles to Alexandria to attend dances. The following is a description of one of these balls. 'Went to a ball at Alexandria where music and dancing were the chief entertainment; however, in a convenient room detached for the purpose

abounded great plenty of bread and butter, some biscuits with tea and coffee which the drinkers could not distinguish from hot water sweetened. Be it remembered that pocket handkerchiefs served the purposes of table-cloths and napkins, and that no apologies were made for either. I shall therefore distinguish this ball by the style and title of the Bread and Butter Ball.' "

"When Washington took command of the army, the relative who took charge of his affairs was told to: 'let the hospitality of the house with respect to the poor be kept up. Let no one go away hungry. If any of this kind of people who may find it difficult, whilst provisions, wood and other necessaries are so dear, to support themselves; or to other and better purposes, if any, I know not, and therefore have taken the liberty of asking your advice.' "

General Greene was the closest to Washington of all the generals. Washington, hearing that his family were in embarrassed circumstances, on his death offered—"If Mrs. Greene would entrust my namesake George Washington Greene to my care, I will give him as good an education as this country, I mean the United States, will afford, and will bring him up to either of the genteel professions that his friends may choose, or his own inclination shall lead him to pursue, at my own cost and expense."

Washington's relations with children is most interesting. He always wrote of them as the "little ones."

Through his life he adopted or assumed the expenses of nine of the children of his "kith and kin."

Dumas says that he arrived at Providence with Washington at night. "The whole population had assembled from the suburbs; we were surrounded by a crowd of children carrying torches, all were eager to approach the person of him whom they called their father, and pressed so closely around us that they hindered us from proceeding. General Washington was much affected, stopped a few moments and pressing my hand said, "We may be beaten by the English, it is the chance of war; but behold an army which they can never conquer.'"

From a Letter to Virginia Lafayette.

"Permit me to thank my dear little correspondent for the favor of her letter of the 18th of June last, and to impress her with the idea of the pleasure I shall derive from a continuance of them, Her papa is restored to her with all the good health, paternal affection and honors, which her tender heart could wish. He will carry a kiss to her from me (which might be more agreeable from a pretty boy) and give her assurances of the affectionate regard with which I have the pleasure of being her well-wisher.

"GEORGE WASHINGTON."

In journeying through New England, Washington spent a night in a private house where all payment was refused. Writing to his host he said:—"Being informed that you have given my name to one of your sons, and called another after Mrs. Washington's family, and being moreover very much pleased with the modest and innocent looks of your two daughters Patty and Polly, I do for these reasons send each of these girls a piece of chintz; and to Patty, who bears the name of Mrs. Washington, and who waited upon us more than Polly did, I send five guineas with which she may buy herself any little ornament, or she may dispose of them in any manner more agreeable to herself. As I do not give these things with a view to have it talked of, or even its being known, the less there is said about the matter the better you will please me; but, that I may be sure the chintz and money have got safe to hand, let Patty, who I dare say is equal to it, write me a line informing me thereof, directed to the President of the United States at New York."

It is well known that there was no officer in the American army whose friendship was dearer to Washington than that of the honest and patriotic Colonel Pickering. Washington was often brought into contact with Primus, the servant of Colonel Pickering. "Washington once came to Colonel Pickering's quarters and found that he was absent. 'It is no matter,' said he to Primus, 'I

am greatly in need of exercise, you must help me to get some before your master returns.' The negro busied himself in making preparations. A stake was driven into the ground about breast high, a rope was tied to it, and then Primus was desired to stand at some distance and hold it horizontally extended. With true boyish zest, Washington ran forwards and backwards for sometime, jumping over the rope as he came and went, until he expressed himself as satisfied with the exercise."

"Again, the General was engaged in earnest consultation with Colonel Pickering until after night had fairly set in. Washington prepared to stay with the colonel over night, provided he had a spare blanket and straw. 'O yes,' said Primus who was appealed to, 'plenty of straw and blankets, plenty.'"

"Two humble beds were spread side by side in the tent and the officers laid themselves down, while Primus seemed to be busy with duties that required his attention before he himself could sleep. He worked or appeared to work until the breathing of the prostrate gentlemen satisfied him that they were sleeping, and then seating himself upon a box, he leaned his head upon his hands to obtain such repose as he could."

"In the middle of the night Washington awoke. He

looked about and descried the negro. He gazed at him awhile and then spoke.

"'Primus,' said he, 'Primus!' Primus started up and rubbed his eyes.

"'What, General?' said he. Washington rose up in his bed. 'Primus,' said he, 'what did you mean by saying that you had straw and blankets enough? Here you have given up your blankets and straw to me, that I may sleep comfortably, while you are obliged to sit through the night." "It's nothing, General," said Primus! 'It's nothing, I'm well enough! Don't trouble yourself about me, General, but go to sleep again. No matter about me, I sleep very good!' 'But it is matter, it is matter,' said Washington. 'I cannot do it, Primus. If either is to sit up, I will. But I think there is no need of either sitting up. The blanket is wide enough for two. Come and lie down with me.'

"'Oh no, General!' said Primus, starting and protesting against the proposition. 'No, let me sit here.' 'I say come and lie down here!' said Washington. 'There is room for both, I insist upon it.'

"He threw open the blanket as he spoke, and moved to one side of the straw. Primus professes to have been exceedingly shocked at the idea of lying under the same covering with the commander-in-chief, but his tone was so resolute and determined that he could not hesitate. He prepared himself therefore and laid himself down by Washington; on the same straw under the same

blanket, the General and the negro servant slept until morning."

"Washington while in the army was known to be exceedingly careful of human lives, and he applied the principle to the brute creation by abstaining from the destruction of all animals however inferior, whenever it could be done consistently with the safety and absolute wants of man, with unusual scrupulousness. As he was once walking with a gentleman over the grounds of Mt. Vernon, a small snake of a harmless species appeared in their path. The gentleman instinctively lifted his heel to crush it, when Washington instantly caught his arm, and in a tone of earnest expostulation exclaimed: 'Stay sir! Is there not room enough in the world for you and that harmless little reptile? Remember, that life is all—everything to the creature, and cannot be necessarily taken without indirectly impugning its Creator, who bestowed it to be enjoyed, with its appropriate pleasures, through its natural term of existence.'"

"The same system and order which was exhibited by Washington in all his public transactions was seen in all his private acts and domestic arrangements; even his charities which were not stinted were nicely systematized. It was his custom in years of plenty to hoard up grain against times of scarcity. And when such times arrived, he threw open his storehouse to the poor, and however

irresponsible they might be, he always made it a point to supply them in preference to others, with all the grain they needed at the old or ordinary prices, for which he regularly took their notes or bonds, but never demanded payment."

While Washington was President and traveling in his carriage with a small retinue of outriders from Mt. Vernon to Philadelphia, an incident occurred which proves that Washington was a man of warm temper, but of great self-command.

"It was during the first day of our journey and we were passing through the barrens of Maryland, where at intervals of a few miles the solitude of the road was relieved at that time by a set of low taverns or groggeries at which we did not think of stopping. But we had a thoughtless young man in our train, who by favor had been admitted into the family as a sort of gentleman attendant and who seemed much more inclined to patronize these places. The General, by his request, had permitted him to ride a favorite young mare which he had raised on his plantation, and of which he was exceedingly careful, the animal being almost as slight in proportions as a roebuck and very high-spirited. But the young fellow notwithstanding the intimation he had received at starting, to deal gently with her, appeared bent on testing her speed and other qualities, and that too in a manner little likely to meet with

favor in a man of Washington's high sense of propriety. He would leave the train, and riding up to one of these liquoring establishments, there remain till we were out of sight; when he would come up upon the run, ride with us a while, and gallop on forward to the next. This he repeated three times the last of which brought the mettlesome creature to a foam and evidently much fretted her. At the first transgression thus committed against the General's orders respecting the mare, as well as against his known sense of propriety, he seemed surprised, looking as if he wondered at the young man's temerity, and contented himself with throwing after him a glance of displeasure. At the second, he appeared highly incensed, although he said nothing, and repressed his indignation, acting as if he thought this must be the last offence, for the punishment of which he chose a private occasion. But as the offender rode up the third time, Washington hastily threw open the carriage window and asking the driver to halt, sharply ordered the former alongside, and with uplifted cane, and a tone and emphasis which startled all, and made the culprit shrink and tremble like a leaf, he exclaimed, 'Look you, sir! your conduct is insufferable. Fall in behind there, sir, and as sure as you leave us again, I will break every bone in your skin!'"

An anecdote characteristic of Washington is related by Professor McVickar, in his narrative of "The Life

of Dr. Bard," who attended Washington during a severe illness, in 1789.

"It was a case of anthrax (carbuncle) so malignant as for several days to threaten mortification. During this period Dr. Bard never quitted him. On one occasion being left alone with him, General Washington, looking steadily in his face, desired his candid opinion as to the probable termination of his disease, adding with that placid firmness which marked his address. 'Do not flatter me with vain hopes, I am not afraid to die, and therefore can bear the worst.' Dr. Bard's answer, though it expressed hope, acknowledged his apprehensions."

"The President replied: 'Whether to-night, or twenty years hence, makes no difference; I know that I am in the hands of a good Providence.'"

A letter of condolence to General Knox, on the occasion of the death of his son.

"PHILADELPHIA, 1791,
SEPTEMBER 8.

"MY DEAR SIR:—I have heard of the death of your promising son with great concern; and sincerely condole with you and Mrs. Knox on the melancholy occasion. Parental feelings are too much alive in the moment these misfortunes happen to admit the consolations of religion or philosophy, but I am persuaded reason will call one or both of them to your aid, as

soon as the keenness of your anguish is abated. He that giveth, you know, has a right to take away. His ways are wise—they are inscrutable and irresistible.

"I am ever,

"Your sincere and affectionate friend,

"GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"MAJ. GEN. KNOX."

George Washington to his nephew, Bushrod Washington.

"Remember, that it is not the mere study of the Law, but to become eminent in the profession of it, which is to yield honor and profit.

"The first was your choice, let the second be your ambition; that the company in which you will improve most, will be least expensive to you; and yet I am not such a stoic as to suppose that you will, or think it right that you should, always be in company with senators and philosophers; but of the young and the juvenile kind let me advise you to be choice. It is easy to make acquaintances, but very difficult to shake them off, however irksome and unprofitable they are found, after we have once committed ourselves to them."

"NEWBURG, JANUARY 15, 1783.

From the same.

"Be courteous to all, but intimate with few; and let those few be well tried before you give them your con-

fidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity, before it is entitled to the appellation."

"On one occasion when the troops were wearily plodding to their winter quarters at Valley Forge, Washington's approach was unannounced. As he rode slowly up he was observed to be eying very earnestly, the frozen surface of the ground.

"He bade the commanding officer come to him, and addressed him as follows: 'How comes it, sir, that I have tracked the march of your troops by the blood stains of their feet?' The officer's reply was, that it was his regiment's misfortune to be among the last to be served; and the stores became exhausted before their turn came. The general was observed to be deeply affected. His compressed lips, the heaving of the chest, betokened the powerful emotions that were struggling in his bosom, when, turning towards the troops, with a voice tremulous, yet friendly, he exclaimed, 'Poor fellows!' then giving rein to his charger rode away.

"During this touching interview every eye was bent upon the chief, every ear was attentive to catch his words: and when those words reached the soldiers a grateful but subdued expression burst from every lip of—'God bless your excellency, your poor soldiers' friend!'"

"The account of Washington's demeanor on hearing the news of General St. Clair's surprise in Ohio by the Indians, lightens up, as by a sudden flash, the mysterious depths of his profound character, both bringing into relief the justice and fairness which made his soldiers and his often murmuring officers rely on him in adversity, and also showing that the apparent equability of his temper was a carefully trained and fostered virtue, not a defect of nature. It was while at dinner on a winter's day that he was called out to read the dispatch.

"He soon returned, apologized for his absence, and attended to his wife's evening visitors with his customary courtesy. At last, he was left alone with his secretary, Mr. Lear. For some minutes he walked up and down in silence; at length, 'Yes,' he burst forth, 'here on this very spot I took leave of him: I wished him success and honor; I said, I will add but one word, beware of a surprise. He went off with that as my last solemn warning into his ear. And yet to suffer that army to be cut to pieces, hacked by a surprise—the very thing I guarded him against! O God, O God! he is worse than a murderer! How can he answer it to his country! The blood of the slain is upon him—the curse of widows and orphans!'

"This torrent came forth in tones appalling. His very frame shook. He sat down on the sofa once more; he was silent. He at length said in an altered

voice, 'This must not go beyond this room!' Another pause followed, a longer one, when he said in a tone quite low, 'General St. Clair shall have justice. I will hear him without prejudice; he shall have full justice.' And from Washington, St Clair had justice."

NOTE.—The reader is referred to Vol. 71 of The Living Age, for a further account of this episode.

"To certify their love for the person who for eight years administered the Government of the United States, the merchants of Philadelphia had prepared a splendid banquet for the day, to which the general officers of rank in the late army, the heads of departments, foreign ministers and other persons of distinction were invited.

"Upon entering the area, the General was conducted to his seat. On a signal given, music played 'Washington's March,' and a screen which represented simple objects in the rear of the principal seat was drawn up and discovered emblematical paintings. The principal, was a female figure as large as life, representing America, on an elevation composed of sixteen marble steps. At her left stood the federal shield and eagle, and at her feet lay the cornucopia; in her right hand she held the Indian calumet of peace supporting the cap of liberty; in the perspective appeared 'The Temple of Fame'; and on her left hand an altar dedicated to public gratitude upon which incense was

burning. In her left hand she held a scroll inscribed 'Valedictory'; and at the foot of the altar lay a plumed helmet and sword from which a figure of General Washington as large as life, appeared retiring down the steps, pointing with his right hand to the emblems of power which he had resigned, and with his left to a beautiful landscape representing Mt. Vernon, in front of which were seen oxen harnessed to the plough. Over the General appeared a genius placing a wreath of laurels on his head."

"Resolved that to perpetuate this valuable present, 'The Farewell Address,' in the most striking form to posterity, it be printed and published with the laws of this session, as an evidence of our approbation of its political axioms and a small testimony of the affection we bear to the precepts of him, to whom, under Divine Providence, we are principally indebted for our great political blessings."

"From Resolutions unanimously adopted by the Legislature of Maryland approving in the highest terms the public services of the President, and particularly the sentiments advanced by him in 'The Farewell Address.'"

"The artist, Houdon, visited Washington at Mt. Vernon. He said: 'It is well that I went; for although I had conceived him to be an imposing

personage, I had no idea of the grandeur and majesty of his form, features and presence.' He solicited Washington to submit to having casts taken of his head and figure, which was at first refused; but so completely did Houdon win the regard of his illustrious host that he finally replied: 'Do with me what you please, I can refuse you nothing.'"

Washington's Humanity Toward His Slaves.

While absent from Mt. Vernon Washington wrote to his manager:

"Although it is last mentioned, it is foremost in my thoughts to desire you will be particularly attentive to my negroes in their sickness, and to order every overseer positively to be so likewise; for I am sorry to observe that the generality of them view these poor creatures in scarcely any other light than they do a draught horse or an ox, neglecting them as much when they are unable to work instead of comforting and nursing them when they lie on a sick bed."

Washington directed in his will that "Upon the decease of my wife it is my will and desire that all the slaves which I hold in my own right shall receive their freedom. . . . And whereas among those who will receive freedom according to this device there may be some who from old age or bodily infirmities, and others

who on account of their infancy that will be unable to support themselves, it is my will and desire that all who come under the first and second description shall be comfortably clothed and fed by my heirs while they live, and that such of the latter description as have no parents living, or if living are unable to provide for them shall be bound by the Court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty-five."

The following incidents connected with Washington's last illness prove his care and thought for others:

"When his secretary carried some letters to him the afternoon before the night he became ill, although he himself had been attending to affairs in the storm most of the day, he said, 'The weather is too bad to send a servant up to the office this evening.'"

At his inauguration as President, it is written: "This great man was agitated and embarrassed more than ever he was by the leveled cannon or pointed musket. He trembled and several times could scarce make out to read his speech, though it must be supposed he had often read it before," and Fisher Ames wrote, "He addressed the two Houses in the Senate-chamber; it was a very touching scene and quite solemn. His aspect grave, almost to sadness: his modesty actually shaking him, his voice deep, tremulous, and so low as to call for close attention."

Miss Stuart, daughter of Gilbert Stuart, relates that "One morning while Mr. Washington was sitting for his picture, a little brother of mine ran into the room, when my father thinking it would annoy the General told him he must leave; but the General took him upon his knee, held him for some time and had quite a little chat with him, and in fact they seemed to be pleased with each other. My brother remembered with pride as long as he lived, that Washington had talked with him."

"At the siege of Yorktown Washington was standing in an exposed position awaiting the result. One of Washington's aides, Colonel Cobb, said to him, 'Sir, you are too much exposed here, had you not better step back a little?' 'Colonel Cobb,' replied his Excellency, 'if you are afraid, you have liberty to step back.'"

An officer wrote: "Our army love their General very much, but they have one thing against him, which is the little care he takes of himself in action. His personal bravery and the desire he has of animating his troops by example, makes him fearless of danger. This occasions us much uneasiness."

"After the war, a friend of General Scott, whose every other word was an oath, endeavoring to break him of the habit by holding up to him the example of his late commander, asked him if Washington ever

swore. Scott reflected for a moment and then exclaimed, 'Yes, once. It was at Monmouth, and on a day that would have made any one swear. Yes, sir, he swore on that day till the leaves shook on the trees—charming, delightful. Never have I enjoyed such swearing before or since! Sir, on that memorable day, he swore like an angel from heaven.'

"The reformer abandoned his friend in despair."

"Gilbert Stuart tells that when Washington sat for the last of the fourteen portraits painted by Charles Wilson Peale, 'I looked in to see how the old gentleman was getting on, and to my astonishment I found the General surrounded by the whole Peale family. As I went away, I met Mrs. Washington; 'Madam,' said I, 'the General's in a perilous situation.' 'How, sir?' 'He is beset, Madam, by no less than five upon him at once; one aims at his eye, another at his nose, another is busy with his hair, his mouth is attracted by a fourth, and the fifth has him by the button; in short, Madam, there are five painters at him, and knowing how he has suffered at the hands of one, you can judge of the horrors of his situation.'"

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ALEXANDRIA ACADEMY,
MT. VERNON, DEC. 1783.

It has long been my intention to invest at my death one thousand pounds current money of this state, in

the hands of trustees, the interest only of which to be applied in instituting a school in the town of Alexandria, for the purpose of educating orphan children who have no other resource, or the children of such indigent parents as are unable to give it ; the objects to be considered of and determined by the trustees, for the time being, when applied to by the parents or friends of the children who have pretensions to this provision. It is not in my power at this time to advance the above sum ; but that a measure that may be productive of good may not be delayed, I will until my death or until it shall be more convenient for my estate to advance the principal, pay the interest thereof, to wit, fifty pounds annually.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

After the surrender of Yorktown, Cornwallis and his officers were not humiliated by having to surrender their swords, but in addition to this, he and his chief officers were entertained at dinner by Washington.

At this dinner, " Rochambeau being asked for a toast gave, 'The United States.' Washington gave, 'The King of France.' Lord Cornwallis simply, 'The King ;' but Washington putting that toast added, 'of England,' and facetiously, 'confine him there, I'll drink him a full bumper, filling his glass till it ran over."

" Rochambeau, with great politeness was still so French that he would every now and then be touching

on points that were improper, and a breach of real politeness. Washington often checked him, and showed the infinite esteem he had for his gallant prisoner, whose private qualities the Americans admired even in a foe that had so filled them with the most cruel alarms.

"When Cornwallis was Governor-general of India many years later, he sent a message to his old foe, wishing 'General Washington a long enjoyment of tranquillity and happiness.'"

Stuart quoted by his Daughter.

"While talking one day with General Lee, my father happened to remark that Washington had a tremendous temper but held it under wonderful control. General Lee breakfasted with the President and Mrs. Washington a few days later. 'I saw your portrait the other day,' said General Lee, 'but Stuart says you have a tremendous temper.'

"'Upon my word,' said Mrs. Washington, coloring, 'Mr. Stuart takes a great deal upon himself to make such a remark.'

"'But stay, my dear lady,' said General Lee, 'he added that the President had it under wonderful control.'

"With something like a smile, General Washington remarked, 'He is right.'"

"A part of each day was always set apart for meditation and devotion; nor this in time of peace only, for we are told that, 'One day while the Americans were

encamped at Valley Forge, the owner of the house occupied by the General, a Quaker, strolled up the creek, and when not far from his mill, heard a solemn voice. He walked quietly in the direction of it and saw Washington's horse tied to a sapling. In a thicket near by was the chief, upon his knees in prayer, his cheeks suffused with tears.' "

WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

The period for a new election of a citizen, to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person, who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprize you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those, out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation, which binds a dutiful citizen to his country; and that, in withdrawing the tender of service, which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest; no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in, the

office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped, that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives, which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement, from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty, or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that, in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions, with which I first undertook the arduous trust, were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say, that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not, unconscious, in the outset, of the

inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself; and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more, that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied, that, if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe, that, while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment, which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude, which I owe to my beloved country for the many honors it has conferred upon me; still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me; and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment, by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise, and as an instructive example in our annals, that under circumstances in which the passions, agitated in every direction, were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the

spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts, and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected. Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence; that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual; that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these States, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete, by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing, as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection and adoption of every nation, which is yet a stranger to it.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me, on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments, which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all-important to the permanency of your felicity as a People. These will be offered to you with the more freedom, as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting

friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget, as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

The unity of Government, which constitutes you one people, is also now dear to you. It is justly so: for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquillity at home, your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very Liberty, which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee, that, from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment, that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourself to think and speak of it as of the Palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion,

that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens, by birth or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of AMERICAN, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the Independence and Liberty you possess are the work of joint counsels, and joint efforts, of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, so greatly outweighed by those, which apply more immediately to your interest. Here, every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the Union of the whole.

The *North*, in an unrestrained intercourse with the *South*, protected by the equal laws of a common government, finds, in the productions of the latter, great additional resources of maritime and commercial

enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The *South*, in the same intercourse, benefiting by the agency of the *North*, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the *North*, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and, while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength, to which itself is unequally adapted. The *East*, in a like intercourse with the *West*, already finds, and in the progressive improvement of interior communications by land and water, will more and more find, a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad, or manufactures at home. The *West*, derives from the *East* supplies requisite to its growth and comfort, and, what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the *secure* enjoyment of indispensable *outlets* for its own productions to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as *one nation*. Any other tenure by which the *West* can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength, or from an apostate and unnatural connection with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While, then, every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in Union, all the parts

combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value, they must derive from Union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same governments, which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues would stimulate and embitter. Hence, likewise, they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which, under any form of government, are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to Republican Liberty. In this sense it is, that your Union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and virtuous mind, and exhibit the continuance of the UNION as a primary object of Patriotic desire. Is there a doubt, whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope, that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective sub-

divisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. It is well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to Union, affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those, who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the causes, which may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern, that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by *Geographical* discriminations, *Northern* and *Southern*, *Atlantic* and *Western;* whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief, that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence, within particular districts, is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart-burnings, which spring from these misrepresentations; they tend to render alien to each other those, who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants of our western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head; they have seen, in the negotiation by the Executive, and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate, of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event, throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the

General Government and in the Atlantic States unfriendly to their interests in regard to the MISSISSIPPI; they have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with Great Britain, and that with Spain, which secure to them everything they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the UNION by which they were procured? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such there are, who would sever them from their brethren, and connect them with aliens?

To the efficacy and permanency of your Union, a Government for the whole is indispensable. No alliances, however strict, between the parts can be an adequate substitute, they must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions, which all alliances in all times have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay, by the adoption of a Constitution of Government better calculated than your former for an intimate Union, and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This Government, the offspring of our own choice, uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to

your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true Liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government. But the Constitution which at any time exists, till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish Government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established Government.

All obstructions to the execution of the Laws, all combinations and associations, under whatever plausible character, with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle, and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction, to give an artificial and extraordinary force; to put, in the place of the delegated will of the nation, the will of a party, often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill-concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common counsels, and modified by mutual interests.

However combinations or associations of the above descriptions may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people, and to usurp for themselves the reins of government; destroying afterwards the very engines, which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government, and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite, not only that you steadily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority, but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretext. One method of assault may be to effect, in the forms of the constitution, alterations, which will impair the energy of the system, and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments, as of other human institutions; that experience is the surest standard, by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country; that facility in changes, upon the credit of mere hypothesis and opinion, exposes to perpetual change, from the endless variety of hypothesis and opinion; and remember, especially, that, for the efficient management of your common interests, in a country so extensive as ours, a

government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty is indispensable. Liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is, indeed, little else than a name, where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprise of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed ; but, in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate domination of one faction over another sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal

and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries, which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual ; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of Public Liberty.

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight), the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the Public Councils, and enfeeble the Public Administration. It agitates the Community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms ; kindles the animosity of one party against another, foments occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion, that parties in free countries are useful cheeks upon the administration of the Government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of Liberty. This within certain limits is probably true; and in Governments of a Monarchical cast, Patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit

of party. But in those of the popular character, in Governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And, there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be, by force of public opinion, to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest, instead of warming, it should consume.

It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution, in those intrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominates in the human heart, is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of the position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories, and constituting each the Guardian of the Public Weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern ; some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve

them must be as necessary as to institute them. If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way, which the constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for, though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit, which the use can at any time yield.

Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens. The mere Politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation *desert* the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in Courts of Justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both for-

bid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

It is substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of a popular government. The rule, indeed, extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who, that is a sincere friend to it, can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric ?

Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is, to use it as sparingly as possible; avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, but remembering also that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursement to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts, which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burthen, which we ourselves ought to bear. The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that the public opinion should cooperate. To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that

you should practically bear in mind, that towards the payment of debts there must be Revenue; that to have Revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised, which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant, that the intrinsic embarrassment, inseparable from this selection of the proper objects (which is always a choice of difficulties), ought to be a decisive motive for a candid construction of the conduct of the government in making it, and for a spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue, which the public exigencies may at any time dictate.

Observe good faith and justice towards all Nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and Morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be, that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great Nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt, that, in the course of time and things, the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages, which might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a Nation with its Virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices?

In the execution of such a plan, nothing is more es-

sential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular Nations, and passionate attachments for others, should be excluded ; and that, in place of them, just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The Nation, which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable, when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur. Hence frequent collisions obstinate, venomed, and bloody contents. The Nation prompted by ill-will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the Government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The Government sometimes participates in the national propensity and adopts through passion what reason would reject ; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition, and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty, of Nations has been the victim.

So likewise, a passionate attachment of one Nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite Nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest, in cases where no real common

interest exists, and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favorite Nation of privileges denied to others, which is apt doubly to injure the Nation making the concessions; by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained; and by exciting jealousy, ill-will, and a disposition to retaliate, in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld. And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation), facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country, without odium, sometimes even with popularity; gilding, with the appearances of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base of foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent Patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the Public Councils! Such an attachment of a small or weak, towards a great and powerful nation, dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I

conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens), the jealousy of a free people ought to be *constantly* awake; since history and experience prove, that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of Republican Government. But that jealousy, to be useful, must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defense against it Excessive partiality for one foreign nation, and excessive dislike of another, cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and odious; while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people, to surrender their interests.

The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little *political* connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagement, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off, when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality, we may at any time resolve upon, to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel.

Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalship, interest, humor, or caprice?

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy. I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But, in my opinion, it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.

Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable

establishments, on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce, but forcing nothing; establishing, with powers so disposed, in order to give trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them, conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another; that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character; that, by such acceptance, it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors, and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion, which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish; that they will control the usual current of the passions, or prevent our nation from running the course, which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations. But, if I may even flatter myself, that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good; that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism; this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare, by which they have been dictated.

How far in the discharge of my official duties, I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is, that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them.

In relating to the still subsisting war in Europe, my Proclamation of the 22d of April, 1793, is the index of my Plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice, and by that of your Representatives in both Houses of Congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me uninfluenced by any attempts to deter or divert me from it.

After deliberate examination, with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take, and was bound in duty and interest to take, a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it, with moderation, perseverance, and firmness.

The considerations, which respect the right to hold this conduct, it is not necessary on this occasion to detail. I will only observe, that, according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being denied by any of the Belligerent Powers, has been virtually admitted by all.

The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without anything more, from the obligation which justice and humanity impose on every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations.

The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions, and to progress without interruption to that degree of strength and consistency, which it necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though, in reviewing the incidents of my adminis-

tration, I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope, that my Country will never cease to view them with indulgence; and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it, which is so natural to a man, who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations, I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize, without alloy, the sweet enjoyment of partaking, in the midst of my fellow-citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government, the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors, and dangers.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

United States, September 17th, 1796.